

Lessons from the Pharisees
Matthew 16:5-12
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show what we can learn from people like the Pharisees

- Intro:
1. The people known as Pharisees are found several times in the New Testament.
 2. We know them primarily because of their dealings with Christ and John the Baptizer.
 3. They are well known, but not good reasons.

I. Who are the Pharisees

A. What they believed & taught (From Strongs)

1. A sect that seems to have started after the Jewish exile. In addition to OT books the Pharisees recognized in oral tradition a standard of belief and life.
2. They held strenuously to a belief in the existence of good and evil angels, and to the *expectation* of a Messiah

B. Characteristics of Pharisees

1. They sought for distinction and praise by outward observance of external rites and by outward forms of piety, and such as ceremonial washings, fastings, prayers, and alms giving; and, comparatively negligent of genuine piety, they prided themselves on their fancied good works. According to Josephus they numbered more than 6000.

II. Christ's interactions with Pharisees

A. The false interest of the Pharisees

1. Pharisee's were enemies of Christ and of John the Baptizer (**Mt 3:7-10**)
2. From Strongs concerning the Pharisees "*They were bitter enemies of Jesus and his cause; and were in turn severely rebuked by him for their avarice, ambition, hollow reliance on outward works, and affection of piety in order to gain popularity.*"
3. They tried repeatedly to trap Christ in His word (**Mt 16:1-4; Mark 10:2**)

B. Their apathetic approach to true faith

1. They had no true desire to be faithful to God, but instead to their own traditions and practices (**Mk 7:3-9**)
2. They wanted a sign, to only ignore (**Mt 12:38-40**)
3. They continually spoke against truth and made excuses for the righteousness of Christ (**Mt 12:22-26**)

III. Lessons for Us Today

A. Do Pharisee's exist today?

1. A name Pharisee today is often applied today in a few ways.
 - a. those who deny the truth when it offends them or someone they love
 - b. those who play the part of a hypocrite
 - c. those who hold traditions that go against truth
 - d. those who appear righteous but only outwardly (**Mt 23:25-29**)
2. Do Pharisee's exist today? Sadly, yes.

B. Do NOT be a Pharisee!

1. Be real, not phony (**Mt 5:20**)

- a. Christians are to have genuine faith not just the appearance of faith.

Application & Conclusion:

1. Christ give several “woes” against the Pharisees.
 - a. These still stand as lessons and warnings for us today.
 - b. Matthew 23:1-33**
2. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11-12, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent & Pray: James 5:16, 1 John 1:9