

Religion/legalism Bible Study

1. Look at Matthew 23. In verse one who was Jesus speaking too? _____
Why would Jesus be speaking to this group of people? _____

2. In verse 2 who was Jesus speaking about? _____
Why would Jesus be speaking about this group? _____

3. In verse 3 what was the admonition that Jesus gave to the people regarding the teachers of the law and the pharisees? _____

Why would Jesus give this admonition to the people? _____

4. According to verse 4 what do the teachers of the law and the Pharisees do to people? _____
Why is this such an evil thing? _____
What would motivate someone to do such a thing? _____

5. Verses 5 through 7 tell about things the teachers of the law and the Pharisees do that are displeasing to the Lord. Why are these things displeasing to the Lord? _____

Can you think of anything in modern day religion that would be similar to these things? _____
6. Verses 8-12 deals with titles that the Pharisees and teachers of the law wanted. Why was the Lord displeased with these people wanting these titles? _____

Can you think of anything in modern day religion that would be comparable with what is being addressed in verses 8-12? _____

What does verse 12 tell us is the real issue behind these titles? _____

7. Verses 13-32 deal with the 7 woes of religion/legalism. We need to take a look at each woe individually and see how it relates to us today but first, what is a woe? _____

8. Look at verses 13-14. What is the religious/legalistic behavior that the teachers of the law and the Pharisees are using? _____

What are the effects of this misuse of God's ways? _____

What kind of behaviors are similar to this in today's religious community? _____

9. What is the religious/legalistic behavior that was used in verse 15? _____

Why would someone go to such lengths to obtain one convert? _____

What does the Scripture mean by "son of hell"? _____

Give some examples of this kind of behavior today: _____

10. What are verses 16-22 talking about? _____

Why would this be such a woeful thing to do? _____

How does this kind of thing happen today? _____

11. What religious/legalistic behavior is being addressed in verses 23-24? _____

Give some specific examples of the more important matters of the law? _____

What does it mean to strain out a gnat and swallow a camel? _____

What gnats are strained out by the spirit of religion/legalism today? _____

What are some camels that are being swallowed by religious people today? _____

12. What is the problem that is presented in verses 25-26? _____

Why would someone have this problem? _____

What would people look like who have been disciplined in this way? _____

How can the inside of the cup be cleaned? _____

13. Why are the teachers of the law and the Pharisees in the condition of being "dead men's bones and everything unclean" in verses 27-28? _____

What would this look like for an individual to be this way? _____

What would it look like for a church to be this way? _____

What is the cure for this condition? _____

14. In verses 29-32 what was the problem with what the people were saying about what happened to the prophets in the past? _____

What were the people failing to see about themselves? _____

What were they actually doing by saying they wouldn't do what their forefathers did? _____

What is the solution for being in this type of condition? _____

15. What is the real issue with the spirit of religion/legalism? _____

What does this spirit and mindset do to a person? _____

In what areas of your life do you see the spirit of religion/legalism working? _____

Why was it so difficult for the teachers of the law and the Pharisees to see their own religious/legalistic ways? _____