



IN FOCUS

THE BURDEN OF RELIGION

Matthew 23:1-39

1. The burden of religion is in focus. (Matthew 23:1-36)

Pharisees don't practice what they preach.

Pharisees crave to be noticed.

Pharisees are a barrier to God's kingdom.

Pharisees justify dishonesty.

Pharisees major on the minors and minor on the majors.

Pharisees focus on the external rather than the internal.

Pharisees assume they are better than others.

2. The offer of a relationship is in focus. (Matthew 23:37-39)

MY APPLICATION

Use the following questions this week to reflect on what it would mean to align yourself with the truths taught in Scripture. Each question is meant for both personal reflection and as a catalyst for discussion with your family, friends, or small group.

1. Are you more of a rule follower or a rule breaker? Briefly describe how that has manifested itself in your life.
2. Read Matthew 23:1-32 together. Which of the seven woes that Jesus gives to the teachers of the law and Pharisees do you see in your life? Give some examples as how you see it play out.
3. Why can it be easy to slip into becoming an accidental Pharisee? How can we become free of living and thinking life like a Pharisee?
4. Read Matthew 11:28-30. What are you currently weary and burdened with? How can Jesus give you rest for your soul?

MEMORY VERSE

*“Come to me , all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.
Matthew 11:28*