

NOVEMBER 10, 2019

RELIGION  
*Matthew 23; John 3*

## Jesus critiques the scribes and the Pharisees in a way that he might \_\_\_\_\_.

Matt. 23

*Preface: You are self-absorbed and have used your religion as a way to get what you crave.* Matt. 23:1-12

1. You hypocritically shut people out of the kingdom, which you yourselves fail to be in. Matt. 23:1-12
2. You are hellbent on conversion, but then you completely mislead your converts. Matt. 23:15
3. You are lost in the minutiae of religious banter, and you use faulty logic to defend your inconsistent theology. Matt. 23:16-22
4. You are legalistic about giving God what you think he wants, but you are missing his heart for justice, mercy, and faith. Matt. 23:23-24
5. You are secretly greedy, consumeristic, and self-serving. Matt. 23:25-26
6. You want others to believe that you have it all together, but inside you are incredibly filthy and just as broken. Matt. 23:27-28
7. You are prideful about your religious heritage and tradition, but you are oblivious to what God has been trying to communicate and is currently doing. Matt. 23:29-31

A \_\_\_\_\_ prompts Jesus to talk about what we'd call being a \_\_\_\_\_.

John 3:1-21

In saying, "You must be \_\_\_\_\_", Jesus means:

1. We will leave behind what is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. We have a \_\_\_\_\_ with distinct plans for raising us \_\_\_\_\_.

*Today is Orphan Sunday. We were visited by our partners at ICA, International Christian Adoptions (4achild.org), and we're encouraging you to be a part of what the Bible describes as pure and undefiled religion: "to care for orphans and widows" (James 1:27). Check out the ways that you can help below:*

- Provide meals for a foster family
- Offer to mow a foster family's lawn
- Offer to wash a foster family's vehicle
- Car maintenance
- Handyman work on house
- House cleaning
- Run errands
- Haircuts for children
- Provide skincare/nail services
- Tutoring services
- Carpools
- Musical lessons
- Sponsor a child to be involved in sports
- Sponsor other extra-curricular activities (art, dance, clubs)
- Sponsor a child to attend church camp
- Donate gift cards (restaurants, grocery stores, gas cards, entertainment)
- Be a mentor!
- Offer to babysit so couple can have a date night
- Start a prayer group that dedicates itself to intercessory prayer for foster children
- Help an adolescent transition to adulthood (college/career coaching, independent living Skills)
- Throw a "child shower" to help a family receive the clothes/supplies they need for a child recently placed in their home
- Provide extra financial help around the holidays
- "Adopt" a foster family: come alongside a family to provide overall on-going support in various ways, including anything from the above list

### TALK IT OVER

*Talking through the message during the week can really help clarify the things that God is teaching you and let others learn from your experiences. Get with someone this week and talk about your answers to the following questions:*

What thought stood out most in the message to you?

Talk through Jesus' list of woes to the scribes and Pharisees. Then discuss how these very critiques can be made of Christians, as well.

Now consider Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus. Why is it important to understand the "born again" language to more fully express what it means to be transformed or taken from a place of comfort and then entering into God's completely different way of living, seeing, being, and learning?

NOVEMBER 10, 2019

RELIGION  
*Matthew 23; John 3*

## Jesus critiques the scribes and the Pharisees in a way that he might **CRITIQUE CHRISTIANS.**

Matt. 23

*Preface: You are self-absorbed and have used your religion as a way to get what you crave.* Matt. 23:1-12

1. You hypocritically shut people out of the kingdom, which you yourselves fail to be in. Matt. 23:1-12
2. You are hellbent on conversion, but then you completely mislead your converts. Matt. 23:15
3. You are lost in the minutiae of religious banter, and you use faulty logic to defend your inconsistent theology. Matt. 23:16-22
4. You are legalistic about giving God what you think he wants, but you are missing his heart for justice, mercy, and faith. Matt. 23:23-24
5. You are secretly greedy, consumeristic, and self-serving. Matt. 23:25-26
6. You want others to believe that you have it all together, but inside you are incredibly filthy and just as broken. Matt. 23:27-28
7. You are prideful about your religious heritage and tradition, but you are oblivious to what God has been trying to communicate and is currently doing. Matt. 23:29-31

## A PHARISEE prompts Jesus to talk about what we'd call being a **BORN-AGAIN CHRISTIAN.**

John 3:1-21

In saying, "You must be BORN AGAIN", Jesus means:

1. We will leave behind what is COMFORTABLE.
2. We have a FATHER with distinct plans for raising us IN THIS GROWING FAMILY.

*Today is Orphan Sunday. We were visited by our partners at ICA, International Christian Adoptions (4achild.org), and we're encouraging you to be a part of what the Bible describes as pure and undefiled religion: "to care for orphans and widows" (James 1:27). Check out the ways that you can help below:*

- Provide meals for a foster family
- Offer to mow a foster family's lawn
- Offer to wash a foster family's vehicle
- Car maintenance
- Handyman work on house
- House cleaning
- Run errands
- Haircuts for children
- Provide skincare/nail services
- Tutoring services
- Carpools
- Musical lessons
- Sponsor a child to be involved in sports
- Sponsor other extra-curricular activities (art, dance, clubs)
- Sponsor a child to attend church camp
- Donate gift cards (restaurants, grocery stores, gas cards, entertainment)
- Be a mentor!
- Offer to babysit so couple can have a date night
- Start a prayer group that dedicates itself to intercessory prayer for foster children
- Help an adolescent transition to adulthood (college/career coaching, independent living Skills)
- Throw a "child shower" to help a family receive the clothes/supplies they need for a child recently placed in their home
- Provide extra financial help around the holidays
- "Adopt" a foster family: come alongside a family to provide overall on-going support in various ways, including anything from the above list

## TALK IT OVER

*Talking through the message during the week can really help clarify the things that God is teaching you and let others learn from your experiences. Get with someone this week and talk about your answers to the following questions:*

What thought stood out most in the message to you?

Talk through Jesus' list of woes to the scribes and Pharisees. Then discuss how these very critiques can be made of Christians, as well.

Now consider Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus. Why is it important to understand the "born again" language to more fully express what it means to be transformed or taken from a place of comfort and then entering into God's completely different way of living, seeing, being, and learning?