

THE LIFE OF
JESUS

Message 30
Spiritual Leaders

Perry Duggar
August 13, 2017

► **Outline**

Today's Message based on *The Life of Jesus* – Reading 169
(Matthew 23:1-36; Mark 12:38-40; Luke 20:45-47)

"... don't do what they do, because they don't do what they say."
Matthew 23:3 (HCSB)

A. Introduction

(Matthew 23:1; Luke 20:46. C/R: Matthew 24:24;
Acts 20:29)

B. Essentials for Spiritual Leadership:
(Matthew 23:2-12)

1. _____.
(Matthew 23:2. C/R: Jeremiah 14:14;
Matthew 7:29; 28:18-19)

2. _____.
(Matthew 23:3. C/R: Matthew 5:20; 23:23-28;
Romans 3:20)

3. _____.
(Matthew 23:4. C/R: Matthew 9:38; 11:28-30;
Galatians 5:1)

4. _____.
(Matthew 23:5-12. C/R: Matthew 6:1,5,16; 20:28;
John 13:1-5, 12-17; 1 Peter 5:5-6)

Answers: 1. Authority 2. Integrity 3. Compassion 4. Humility

Resource Information: Unless otherwise noted, outline and onscreen verses are from HCSB version (Holman Christian Standard Bible) of *The Holy Bible*. Our resource book for this series is *The Life of Jesus, A Simplified Harmony of the Gospels*, which is available in the Bookstore. C/R, if noted, refers to a 'cross reference' of Scripture verse(s). Today's outline and discussion guide are available to mobile device users through the Brookwood Church app available through your favorite app store.

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► Discussion Guide

Use this guide to help you draw closer to God. Try not to rush through these questions, but take time to learn and grow. Ask God to speak to you in His Word. Find a Small Group at brookwoodchurch.org/smallgroups.

Conversation Starter

Growing up, were you more of a rule-follower or a rule-breaker?

Personal Reflection/Group Discussion

Read [Matthew 23:1-8](#) (The beginning of Reading #169 in *The Life of Jesus*).

1. What was wrong with the way the scribes and Pharisees acted? What is Jesus trying to help us avoid?

Note on [Matthew 23:5](#)

Phylacteries were small boxes containing Scripture strapped to the right arm and forehead in obedience to [Deuteronomy 6:6-8](#). Apparently the Pharisees had made the straps extra-wide to make them more visible, and made the tassels on their prayer shawls ([Numbers 15:38](#)) extra-long in order to be seen.

2. When have you pretended to be more spiritual than you really are?
3. Why are we so concerned about what others think of us?
4. What character traits make someone trustworthy to you?

Read [Matthew 23:9-12](#) (continuing Reading #169 in *The Life of Jesus*).

5. How would you describe someone who is humble?
6. What is one thing you can do to *humble yourself*?

In the last part of **Reading #169 in *The Life of Jesus*** ([Matthew 23:13-36](#)), Jesus pronounces several prophetic *woes* (very harsh warnings or judgments) on the scribes and Pharisees. Rather than helping God's people come to know the love and amazing grace of God, these religious leaders abused their power and position of authority by oppressing others. They were guilty of *going through the motions*, but their hearts were far from God (See [Isaiah 29:13](#); [Matthew 15:8](#)).

Carefully study Jesus' accusations. Instead of focusing on what you shouldn't do, ask God to help you understand ways He wants you to live as a follower of Christ.

Identify Five Practices of a Godly Leader from [Matthew 23:13-36](#):

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

Soul Training

God transforms us when we engage in real relationships with others. Talk to at least one person this week about what God has been teaching you. Take the time to pray for each other.

Memory Verse

Therefore do and observe whatever they tell you. But don't do what they do, because they don't do what they say. [Matthew 23:3 \(HCSB\)](#)

Daily Reading

Day	<i>The Life of Jesus</i> Reading #	or	Bible Reference
August 14	166		Matthew 22:23-33 ; Mark 12:18-27 ; Luke 20:27-40
August 15	167		Matthew 22:34-40 ; Mark 12:28-34
August 16	168		Matthew 22:41-46 ; Mark 12:35-37 ; Luke 20:41-44
August 17	169		Matthew 23:1-36 ; Mark 12:38-40 ; Luke 20:45-47
August 18	170		Mark 12:41-44 ; Luke 21:1-4

Prepare for Next Sunday

On Sunday, August 20, we'll study **Jesus' Great Prophetic Discourse** as recorded in [Matthew 24:1-51](#), [Mark 13:1-37](#) and [Luke 21:5-38](#). These passages are harmonized in Reading #171 in *The Life of Jesus*.

