The Wrong Way To Shine Our Lights

Greg Kline · Matthew 23:1–36

INTRODUCTION

- The purpose of shining our light is so that others may see God in us and glorify him as the eternal Father that he is and always will be.
- I want to look at an example of people who had a unique opportunity to spread God's word, to teach God's word.
- Jesus really takes the scribes and the Pharisees to task, because they were religious leaders of their day.

1 They Preach but Do Not Practice

Matthew 23:1–12; Matthew 5:13–16

- So do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice.
- They do all their deeds to be seen by others, for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long.
- Their wrong way of shining their life was tied in a wrong focus. Rather than glorifying God, they wanted what? Themselves to be glorified.
- Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

2 You Shut the Kingdom of Heaven

Matthew 23:13–15; Matthew 15:1–9; Mark 12:38–40

- You shut the kingdom of heaven in people's faces, for you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in.
- We teach Christ and Christ crucified. We teach what the Bible teaches. It is that simple.
- They used their position to take advantage of those who in that culture were among the most needy, the most at risk, the widows.
- Jesus has no hobby horse. He has his inspired word. We teach it. We rightly divide the word of truth. Or we don't. There is no middle ground.

3 Woe to You, Blind Guides

Matthew 23:16–22; 1 Peter 4:11

- In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus made it clear, we are to let our yes be yes and our no be no.
- Christians, people of God's company, are honest and full of integrity. There is no exception to that rule.
- We not only are we blind guides to others, but we kind of try to loophole and lawyer our way through the text.
- When we try to find some way around doing what God has commanded, when we look the other way.

4 Neglecting the Weightier Matters of the Law

Matthew 23:23–24; 2 Timothy 2:15

- For you tithe the mint and dill and cumen and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice, mercy, and faithfulness. These you ought to have done without neglecting the others.
- They had misplaced their priorities.
- As Christians, we need to be showing, oozing, shining a light of love, as God has shown us love and shown us what love is and what love does.
- Their priorities were wrong, and such the picture is, as Jesus says, they were straining out a gnat and in so doing, swallowing a camel.

5 Outward Deception and Internal Corruption

Matthew 23:25–28

- You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.
- The fundamental misunderstanding of the Pharisees is that glory belongs to God, not to them.
- Their outward appearance was deceptively beautiful, while the inside it was full of absolute and utter corruption.
- Where is our focus? As Christians, it is our soul. Our soul is what is going to go on forever.

6 You Build the Tombs of the Prophets

Matthew 23:29–36

- If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.
- They comforted themselves by looking at others, looking at their past and saying, That's not me. I don't do that.
- If we're going to shine our light before others so that they see our good works and glorify our Father who is in heaven, we're not going to be like the Pharisees who try to exalt self.

THE CHALLENGE

The question is, what type of guides are we? Are we letting our light shine so that people may see and glorify God? Are we blind guides, leading others farther from our Father, making them twice as much a child of hell as ourselves?

MY NOTES