

LESSON 10

INSIDE AND OUT

MATTHEW 19:1—23:39



1 What kind of image does a typical politician try to project in running for office?

2 How have you found this image to be different from what the person is really like?



Read Matthew 19:1—23:39, the chart “The Seven Woes,” and the following notes:

☐ 21:30 ☐ 21:33ff ☐ 23:2, 3 ☐ 23:5 ☐ 23:5–7 ☐ 23:13, 14 ☐ 23:15
☐ 23:23, 24 ☐ 23:24 ☐ 23:25–28 ☐ 23:34–36

3 What was hypocritical about the religious leaders (21:23–27, 33–46; 22:15–22; 23:1–36)?

4 What did Jesus warn people about concerning the religious leaders (23:1–12)?

5 Why did Jesus speak so harshly to the religious leaders (23:13–36)?

6 What hope did Jesus offer to those who were guilty of religious hypocrisy (19:20, 21, 25, 26; 20:25–28; 21:28–32; 22:29, 36–40)?

7 How did the Pharisees appear outwardly?



8 What were the Pharisees like inwardly?

The Pharisees and experts in the law were hypocrites. While they knew a lot, they did not do what they taught. Jesus did not criticize them for what they taught but for how they lived. While believing in mercy, they did not practice it. While believing in devotion to God, they were actually devoted to fame and public praise. While believing in the law, they actually worked harder at keeping their traditions, often at the expense of what God really wanted. Perhaps these areas were blind spots for them; perhaps they were deliberate inconsistencies. In any case, we must beware of the human tendency to say one thing and do another. It takes conscious thought and effort to make sure we live according to the ideals we claim to uphold.

9 Why do people act hypocritically?

10 What is the cure for hypocrisy?



11 Which of the hypocrisies Jesus pointed out do you find to be an ongoing struggle in your own life (see the chart “The Seven Woes”)?

12 What inconsistencies have you found between your faith and your lifestyle?

13 How might Jesus challenge you to change?



14 In what area of your life do you need more consistency between what you project on the outside and what you are on the inside?

15 How can you become more genuine?

A What issues concerning marriage and divorce did Jesus clarify (19:3–12)? How do Jesus' words clash with the view most people have of marriage today? What can you do to preserve the integrity of marriage?

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B In what way is it good to be like a child (19:13–15)? What areas of your life does this affect? What makes it difficult to be childlike toward God? How can you be more childlike in your faith?

C What basic human traits did the disciples display in rebuking the parents who brought their children to Jesus (19:13–15)? What conflicting priorities did this bring out? How did Jesus challenge his disciples to rethink their priorities? How can we bring our attitude toward children more in line with Jesus' view of them?

D In what ways can money draw us away from God (19:23–26)? What can you do to keep money from becoming more important to you than God?

E What important spiritual principle about grace did Jesus illustrate in his parable of the vineyard workers (20:1–16)? How has God shown his grace to you? How might you show your gratitude to him?

F What interpersonal conflict arose when James and John's mother asked Jesus to give her sons special treatment (20:20–28)? Why do people expect special treatment? What is a better outlook to have?

G How did Jesus show his compassion toward the blind men on the way out of Jericho (20:29–34)? What means do you have for showing compassion?

H Who cheered Jesus at the Triumphal Entry (21:9–11)? What did many of those people say about him later (27:15–26)? Why did they change their minds? In what ways is our loyalty to Christ fickle? How can we strengthen our devotion to him?

I What did Jesus show and teach about prayer (21:18–22)? How could you improve your prayer habits? When will you begin to make this change?

J In the parable of the wedding dinner (22:1–14), what response did the king seek from his guests? What holds people back from accepting God's invitation? Why does this parable offer us hope?