**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr March 24, 2024**

**The Danger of Religious Hypocrisy**

Matthew 23:1-12

**Key Truth:** Left unchecked, religious hypocrisy has the power to lead others astray from the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Jesus Exposes The Pharisee’s Hypocrisy:**

1. They have the right doctrine but wrong practice.

2. They focus on rules and not enough on relationships.

3. They live for the applause of others, not the glory of God.

4. They love special treatment and religious titles.

**Jesus Warns The Pharisees:**

1. They are guilty of hindering people from following Jesus.

2. They are leading people to hell.

3. They teach people to walk in dishonesty in the name of God.

4. They are more concerned with religious piety than people.

5. They are more concerned with outward works of

 righteousness than the inner work of righteousness.

6. They are more concern with appearing righteous than being

 righteous.

7. They are guilty of rejecting and killing God’s prophets.

**How Not To Become A Religious Hypocrite:**

1. Remember that all glory belongs to Jesus Christ!

2. Remember you are a sinner saved by grace.

3. Care more about what God thinks of you, than what

 others think.

4. Become a servant of others and walk in humility before God.

5. Let others praise you and not your own lips.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Thank God that Jesus confronts our hypocrisy and calls us to repentance. Ask Jesus to reveal areas of your life where you place rules above love for God and people. Invite Him to cleanse you from within.

**Food For Thought:**

Read Matthew 23:2-7: What sticks out to you the most about these verses?

Why do you think Jesus takes hypocrisy so seriously?

When you are confronted by hypocrisy in your own life, how do you tend to respond—with denial or repentance? Why?

Considering Jesus’ words, what needs to change in your life?

How does living free from hypocrisy tell the world the truth about God’s power in our lives?

Read Galatians 2:11-14: What does Peter’s action say about the power of hypocrisy? Why did Paul have to confront him?

What are some action steps each of us can take in order to stop being hypocritical in these areas of our lives?

What commitments must each of us make if we’re going to know God’s Word well enough to realize when we’re being hypocrites?