



The Challenge of Telling Religious People the Truth (Part 1) (They Assume and Ignore More Than They Should)

September 20, 2020

Text: Matthew 23:1-12

I. They Make Three Dangerous Assumptions

1. They assume **they are right** all the time
2. They assume **they hear from God** all the time
3. They assume **their view of the Bible is the only view**

II. They Ignore Five Important Signs

1. **Lifestyle Signs** (They cannot always see their **inconsistencies**)
2. **Traditional Signs** (They only know **one way** to live)
3. **Pride Signs** (They **do not know how** to be wrong)
4. **Vision Signs** (They **cannot see** beyond themselves)
5. **Attitude Signs** (They do not have the **attitude** of a servant)

III. They Ignore The Issues The Warning Signs Reveal

1. Lifestyle Issues: They are inconsistent

- Matthew 23:1–12 (NIV): 23 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: 2 “The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. 3 So you must be careful to **do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do**, for they do not practice what they preach.

2. Tradition Issues: They create burdens for people who follow them

- 4 They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and **put them on other people’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger** to move them.

3. Pride Issues: They are overly proud of their spirituality

- 5 “Everything they do is done **for people to see**: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long;

4. Vision Issues: They love to be honored and cannot see beyond themselves

- 6 **they love the place of honor** at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; 7 they love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to be called ‘Rabbi’ by others. 8 “But you are not to be called ‘Rabbi,’ for you have one Teacher, and you are all brothers. 9 And do not call anyone on earth ‘father,’ for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. 10 Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one Instructor, the Messiah.

5. Attitude Issues: They are not willing to be servant minded without a hook

- 11 The greatest among you will be your **servant**. 12 For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.



Conclusion: Where do religious people learn their bad habits?

Answer: Religious Leaders

Read Ahead: Matthew 23:13-36

Next Time: Tough Talk To Religious Leaders