

There are 5 categories of sins – Cf. Mk 12:37, Matt 23:1-36

This is addressed to the disciples before the Passover crowd

Luke doesn't list all that is in Matt 23 because Luke mentioned similar in Luke 11:37-53 in a different setting, dinner at a Pharisees' house

Jesus termed Scribes and Pharisees as hypocrites many times in Matt 23.

Scribes are Pharisees, law experts, self-righteous, dominant force. They interpret and teach the Law, handled legal matters of Jews, religious leaders.

v.46 –Pride, Wickedness and Greed

Pride exemplified:

Walk in long robes to be noticed – Num 15:37-41 where it's purpose is to remember the law and the LORD

Love greetings – Stand and address them as “Rabbi”, “Father”, “Leader/Instructor”

Best seats in synagogues

Places of honor at feasts – next to the hosts in the “U” shaped table

Wickedness/Greed exemplified:

Devour widow's houses. Devour – Total consumption, swallow whole

They do this by

- a. Charge for advice inspite of Mishnah/Talmud saying knowledge should be free
- b. Lend money for high interest
- c. Taking advantage of older widows
- d. Abuse hospitality
- e. Making them serve at the temple disobeying Ex 22:22, Deut 10:18, Mal 3:5, Jam 1:27

Long prayers – motive is to impress people

Jesus was patient with prostitutes, tax collectors and sinners but not with “Hypocrites” because

Hypocrisy shuts down who we are

Never allows to see our heart's true condition

It makes us go far from the foundation of grace and mercy

But God sees everything.

v.47 – Greater condemnation cf. Jam 3:1

- a. Responsibility to people

- b. Accountability to God
- c.

Application:

1. Are we like the “Scribes and Pharisees”? Are we hypocrites? Do we commit the same sins?
2. We as Christians should test what is taught, notice “Beware”.
3. Don’t love popularity
4. Our dress, speech, behavior shouldn’t point to ourselves but to God
5. Don’t steal God’s glory
6. Don’t manipulate people
7. Be transparent, no hypocrisy
8. Be careful when you judge eg. Not all Scribes were hypocrites.