

Title: DON'T DO WHAT THEY DO, MATTHEW 23:1 – 12  
(Chatham, NJ; 11/02/14, AM) [Pc – Exegesis with Comparison and Contrast]

Theme: Jesus challenges his disciples to look carefully at what the Pharisees do and to avoid their behaviors.

Purpose: To challenge the congregation also to be different than the Pharisees.

Introduction:

1. I have said before that the Pharisees are the people we love to hate.
2. Judging from what Jesus says in Matthew 23, our animosity toward them is well-founded.
3. However, Jesus is concerned that his disciples don't fall into the same patterns.
4. We are prone to the same mistakes: we can be prideful that we are not like them (like the Pharisee who was glad that he was not like the Publican, we can say that we are not like the Pharisees).
5. Spiritual snobbery is a sin that lurks everywhere.
6. Today we consider how not to be like the hypocrites.
7. We'll look at what they do and what we should do.

#### I. Preach, but Don't Practice, 3

##### A. What they do

1. They preach but don't practice what they preach
2. Jesus has already revealed the importance of doing the will of God in Mt. 7:21 & 24-27, where the wise man puts the words of Christ into practice
3. The Pharisees avoided obedience in any number of ways, Mt. 15:8-9
4. Romans 2:17-24 addresses the same thing

##### B. What we should do

1. Practice what you preach: emphasis on practice
2. Also before you preach: evangelism reflects the evangelist
3. Whenever you share your faith, your life is also on display
4. We live in an age when people are more than ready to pounce on Christian imperfections
5. You will not be perfect, but you can strive to practice first
6. Most people will see and admire your integrity

#### II. Heavy Burdens, 4

##### A. Tie heavy burdens, but won't lift them

1. An extension of the previous problem
2. They not only don't practice what they preach, but they compound the problem by making life harder for others
3. Not being willing to move burdens even with their finger exaggerates just how little they were unwilling to exert themselves
4. Subtle thing happens to the economics of socialism: as Margaret Thatcher said, "Socialism is great until you run out of other people's money to spend."
5. The hypocrisy of Judas is a clear example – he didn't really care about the poor, but he expected someone else to care about them
6. He wanted others to do what he wouldn't do

##### B. What we should do

1. Don't ask people to do something you aren't willing to do
2. Servants are not exempt from works of service
3. Shoulder your own burdens first, Gal. 6:4-5
4. Don't change "bear one another's burdens" (verse 2) to "bear mine for me."

5. Be dependent on no one, 1 Thess. 4:12
6. Don't ask people to do for you what you should do for yourself

### III. Everything for Show, 5

- A. They do their deeds to be seen by others
  1. Showy clothing, places of honor, greetings, best seats, and recognition, 5-7
  2. These weren't even good deeds
  3. 25-28, inwardly full of greed, self-indulgence, hypocrisy, and lawlessness
  4. Their shows of righteousness masked sinful behavior
- B. What we should do
  1. Jesus already told his disciples to perform religious activities silently: giving to the poor, praying, and fasting in Matthew 6
  2. Hypocrites love to have others know they have done these things
  3. Do good things quietly knowing that God sees!
  4. 1 Timothy 5:25, good works will be obvious without calling attention to them
  5. Good works glorify God, not ourselves, Mt. 5:16

### Conclusions:

1. Practice what you preach. Ask yourself, "Am I being the wise man who built on a rock or a foolish man who built on sand?"
2. What you expect of others, do as well. Ask yourself, "How can I lift the burden of others?"
3. Do things for God to see, not others. Ask yourself, "Do I want a reward from God or from others?"
4. Simple rules to keep you from falling prey to the sins of the Pharisees
5. Do them and you will be a true disciple of Christ.