

## The Story of Jesus: Hypocrisy

(Lesson 67)

### Introduction:

1. Growing in the knowledge of Christ is an important responsibility (2 Peter 3:18).
2. This growth can be achieved by searching the Scriptures (John 5:39).
3. In this lesson we are concentrating on a subject that Jesus addressed many times during His ministry, especially in the Gospel of Matthew -- "hypocrisy."
4. In addition to pointing out the hypocrisy of the Jewish leaders, Jesus warned His followers to avoid their mistakes.

### Discussion:

- I. LET US OBSERVE 3 GENERAL PRINCIPLES THAT RELATE TO HYPOCRISY
  - A. Jesus is aware of it (Mark 12:15).
  - B. Hypocrisy is an inward problem (Matthew 23:28).
  - C. Eternal punishment is the destiny of hypocrites (Matthew 24:51).
- II. LET US OBSERVE HOW JESUS ASSOCIATED CERTAIN ACTIVITIES WITH HYPOCRISY; INCLUDING:
  - A. participating in religious activities for the purpose of being seen of men, such as doing alms [benevolence] (Matthew 6:1-2), praying (Matthew 6:5), and fasting (Matthew 6:16)
  - B. judging unfairly (Matthew 7:5)
  - C. approaching the Lord with words while the heart is far removed (Matthew 15:7-9)
  - D. tempting the Lord with a request for a sign (Matthew 16:1-4)
  - E. tempting the Lord with the question about paying tribute (Matthew 22:18)
  - F. preventing people from entering the kingdom (Matthew 23:13)
  - G. taking advantage of people while praying (Matthew 23:14)
  - H. false conversion (Matthew 23:15)
  - I. obeying certain commandments while overlooking others (Matthew 23:23-24)
  - J. cleaning the outside while neglecting the inside (Matthew 23:25-28)
  - K. denying participation in the deeds of others (Matthew 23:29-33)
  - L. criticizing the Lord for healing a woman on the Sabbath (Luke 13:14-16).

### Conclusion:

1. These passages indicate that Jesus detests hypocrisy, especially among religious leaders.
2. Let us heed:
  - a. the Lord's warning in Luke 12:1
  - b. the instructions given in 1 Peter 2:1.