

A WARNING ABOUT COUNTERFEIT SPIRITUAL LEADERS
(Matthew 23:1-12)

- I. Defining the CONTEXT of the WARNING (Matt. 23:1-2a)
 - A. Addressed to “the CROWDS” and “His DISCIPLES” (23:1)
 - B. Critiquing “the SCRIBES and the PHARISEES” (23:2b)

- II. Describing the CHARACTER of the FALSE Leaders (Matt. 23:2b-7)
 - A. The false leaders lack AUTHORITY (23:2b)
 - 1. They PRESUME to have the authority of MOSES
 - 2. They were never GRANTED that authority by GOD
 - B. The false leaders lack INTEGRITY (23:3)
 - 1. Some of what they SAY is TRUE and should be OBEYED
 - 2. The way they LIVE should not be IMITATED
 - C. The false leaders lack SYMPATHY (23:4)
 - 1. They demanded people carry HEAVY regulatory BURDENS
 - 2. They compounded it with a burden of GUILT
 - 3. They REFUSED to offer AID with the LOAD

- D. The false leaders lack SPIRITUALITY (23:5)
 - 1. They had NO INTEREST in pleasing GOD
 - 2. They did EVERYTHING to be NOTICED by MEN
- E. The false leaders lack HUMILITY (23:6-7)
 - 1. They craved HONOR at GATHERINGS
 - 2. They expected RESPECT in PUBLIC places

III. Declaring His COUNSEL to the TRUE Leaders (Matt. 23:8-12)

- A. True leaders do not seek ELEVATED TITLES (23:8-10)
 - 1. Only CHRIST is to be EXALTED
 - 2. We in MINISTRY are all BROTHERS
- B. True leaders accept LOWLY SERVICE (23:11-12)
 - 1. EXALTING yourself will lead to HUMILIATION
 - 2. HUMBLING yourself will lead to EXALTATION