

BEWARE OF SPIRITUAL SCAMS!

Matthew 23:1-39

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Intro – the danger of spiritual scams

1. Warning: Don't be a hypocrite

What is a hypocrite? Someone who talks the talk but doesn't walk the walk. (2-3)

The Pharisees:

- control people through man-made traditions. (4)
- take pride in accomplishments, positions of honour and titles. (5-10)
- exalt themselves over others. (11-12)

2. Woes: Judgment against hypocrisy

The Pharisees choose:

- laws before life (13)
- legalism over love (15)
- gold rather than God (16-22)
- tithing without truth (23-24)
- outward instead of inward cleanliness (25-26)
- superficiality over spirituality (27-28)
- beauty covering bloodguilt (29-32)

The result? Judgment upon their generation (33-36)

3. Welcome: Jesus Invites a Response (37-39)

- Repent from spiritual hypocrisy – Jesus is looking for authentic faith.
- Reflect on your spiritual health – is there a disconnect between your outward and inward faith?
- Reach out for spiritual healing – go to Jesus for rest from religious burnout and spiritual wounds.