



“The following is a direct script of a teaching that is intended to be presented via video, incorporating relevant text, slides, media, and graphics to assist in illustration, thus facilitating the presentation of the material. In some places, this may cause the written material to not flow or sound rather awkward in some places. In addition, there may be grammatical errors that are often not acceptable in literary work. We encourage the viewing of the video teachings to complement the written teaching you see below.”

The Lawless Pharisees

What does it mean to be “Pharisaical?” By definition, it can mean to be like a Pharisee, right? So, what were the Pharisees like? If you were brought up like me, you were told that the Pharisees followed the law to the letter. They focused their lives on nothing but obedience to the law. This, in turn, resulted in them focusing on the external only and not the internal.

But is this true? Did the Pharisees really focus only on obedience to the law? We know that Yeshua reprimanded the Pharisees on many accounts. That being said, what were the Pharisees like in the eyes of our Savior?

Well, let’s see what our Savior said about them and even to them.

Mark 7:8-13

“You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men.” And He said to them: “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.’ But you say that if a man says to his father or mother: ‘Whatever help you might otherwise have received of me is Corban’ (that is, a gift devoted to God), then you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother. Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that.”

So, here we have Christ Himself accusing the Pharisees of forsaking the law of God to follow **their own traditions**. Did you catch that? They followed their own traditions.

What else does our Savior say about the Pharisees?

Matthew 23:2-3

The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. So, you must obey them and do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach.

Here He tells His disciples to obey what the Pharisees teach. They taught the law. But He instructs them to NOT do what they do. What did they do? They did not practice what they preached: the law. He calls the Pharisees and teachers of the law hypocrites.

Wow! So, here we find that they preach the law, but they didn't practice it. In this same text He calls them "blind guides" and "fools." It's interesting to note that the Pharisees were all about the tithe yet they belittled the rest of the law. Consider:

Matthew 23:23-24

Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices - mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law - justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.

They stressed the tithe, yet they reasoned away following the other matters of the law. How could they do that? And who does that sound like today? Think about it.

Compare what Christ Himself said to His disciples about THEIR righteousness:

Matthew 5:20

For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Wow, this is huge! Remember, they taught the law but they didn't practice it. This verse tells us that the Pharisees' righteousness was not of the Father's. It also tells us that the Pharisees were not going to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven and if the disciples didn't do better than the Pharisees, they wouldn't enter either. Why? Because they were pursuing a righteousness that was created by man and not that which came from the Father.

Compare the following:

John 7:19

Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law...."

So, the Pharisees were given the law but they didn't keep it. So, to be "Pharisaical" is to be one who does not keep the law but pursues another righteousness.

Now, one more thing before we conclude. Look at Matthew 5:20 one more time.

Matthew 5:20

For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

What is Yeshua telling us here? He's telling us that unless we are pursuing the righteousness that the Father gave us, we are endangering ourselves from NOT entering the kingdom like the Pharisees.

Understand that this is NOT a "works based" salvation. It's a "proof based" salvation. Consider what James said in chapter 2.

James 2:17-19

In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by

what I do. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that - and shudder.

Now, consider what he said just five verses later.

James 2:24

You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.

You see, faith is the root and obedience is the fruit. The fruit is the proof of what faith you are walking out. The fruit is what shows what is planted in your heart. The eternal Word of God. That is the seed. And that which is in you WILL come out of you. And so, though the Pharisees may have preached the law, they were not walking it out as Yeshua said in Matthew 23.

Matthew 23:3

So, you must obey them and do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach.

Please understand that this is Yeshua at the end of His earthly ministry telling His disciples to follow the instructions of Yahweh as given through Moses. Thus, we are to follow Yahweh's eternal instructions and not those which are passed down from man.

I guess the question for us today is this: Who are the Pharisees today in the eyes of our Savior? Would it be those who show their love for the Father by pursuing obedience to the law given through Moses as exemplified by Yeshua? Or, those who forsake the law to follow their own man made rules and doctrines passed down by their forefathers?

Something for us to think about. We hope you have enjoyed this study.

Remember, continue to test everything.

Shalom.

For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

EMAIL: Info@119ministries.com

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/119Ministries

WEBSITE: www.TestEverthing.net & www.ExaminaloTodo.net

TWITTER: [www.twitter.com/119Ministries#](https://twitter.com/119Ministries#)