



# THE ONLY PEOPLE JESUS ATTACKED

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Jesus consistently criticizes just one group:

Leaders who teach \_\_\_\_\_

17 times Jesus calls religious leaders “hypocrites”

“Be careful not to do your ‘acts of righteousness’ before men, **to be seen** by them. When you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the **hypocrites** do in the synagogues and on the streets... Matthew 6:1,2

## CHARACTERISTICS OF PERFORMANCE-BASED RELIGION:

1. It invents \_\_\_\_\_

“Their teachings are but rules taught by men.” Matthew 15:9

Do I turn personal \_\_\_\_\_ into God’s \_\_\_\_\_?

2. It produces passionate commitment to the \_\_\_\_\_

“...you **hypocrites**! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness...” Matthew 23:23 (See Luke 11:42)

In a performance-based system, it’s crucial to be able to measure performance!

Legalism is \_\_\_\_\_. Grace is \_\_\_\_\_.

3. It focuses on the \_\_\_\_\_, not the \_\_\_\_\_

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you **hypocrites!** You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean. Matthew 23:25-26

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you **hypocrites!** You are like **whitewashed tombs**, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men’s bones and everything unclean.” Matthew 23:27

Legalistic systems always end up \_\_\_\_\_ the real problem

### The response of the Pharisees and teachers of the law:

One of the experts in the law answered him, “Teacher, when you say these things, **you insult us** also.” Jesus replied, “And you experts in the law, woe to you, because you **load people down with burdens** they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them.” Luke 11:45,46

### Jesus’ offer to everyone trapped in a performance-based religion:

“Come to me, **all you who are weary and burdened**, and I will give you **rest. Take my yoke** upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find **rest** for your souls. For my yoke is **easy** and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30

## **THE BOTTOM LINE:**

Jesus calls me from the burden of \_\_\_\_\_

to the freedom of \_\_\_\_\_