



THE ONLY PEOPLE JESUS ATTACKED

RENÉ SCHLAEPFER | MARCH 23 & 24

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 _____