



Bad Religion

WHEN FAITH LOSES FOCUS

Corresponds to the 4/16/23 sermon

Matthew 23:1-12

Big Idea: When pride or power grips our hearts we will always end up seeking to be served rather than to serve.

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

Read the following Scriptures together and then use the questions below (or any you wish to add) to discuss the text and unpack its meaning.



Have someone in your group read **Matt 23:1-12**

- What is Jesus' critique of the Pharisees in today's passage?
- What is your understanding of the word "woe" that Jesus uses repeatedly in this chapter?
- Do you think v10 and v11 are simply about titles of leaders? Why is that your perspective?
- What does v11 tell you about the posture of the religious leaders and what can we learn from Jesus' instruction in this section?

GETTING PRACTICAL

1. Where do you see abuse of power today? Where have you seen the abuse of power in the church over history or in your life? What is the impact of the abuse of power in the church? What can be done?

2. It's easy to look at people of influence and critique their motives and actions. It's a bit more challenging to apply the same standard to our life. Some of us might not relate to abuse of power but pride and control are familiar behaviors for many of us. What issues come from pride and being controlling?
3. How can we be less prideful and controlling? What role does humility and service play?
4. How can we prioritize people over performance?

TAKING IT HOME

In this series we want to spend time reflecting on a single idea each week. Spend time praying, journaling and meditation on the topic. Allow the Scriptures and the Spirit to speak to you about this week's topic. We hope that your time with the Lord will lead to confession, encouragement and being formed in the likeness of Jesus.

Jesus modeled what it was to be a humble servant. Reflect on Christ like humility and service to others in your life.