

Blind Guides
Matthew 23:13-33

Review:

1. Much open hostility to Christ comes from outside the Church
2. Some opposition to Christ comes from within the Church in the form of false teaching and hypocrisy
3. Because legalism neglects the heart of the gospel, it easily leads to hypocrisy and then to open hostility to Christ

Reflect:

1. "He shouldn't come to church because he ____." How would you fill in that blank? Are you proud of the fact that you don't do things like that? How can you resist such pride?
2. Given your understanding of the Scriptures, what part of your life is farthest from God's will? What steps can you take to make your life more consistent with your faith?

Go further: Read Micah 5:10-6:8

1. What does the Lord say He will remove from His people in 5:10? Why might these things cause a problem for them?
2. What does the Lord say He will remove from His people in 5:11? Why might these things be a stumblingblock for them?
3. Who does the Lord say He will remove from His people in 5:12? Why would consulting these people be inconsistent with their faith in God?
4. What three sorts of idols does the Lord say He will remove from His people in 5:13?
5. Who does God promise to punish in 5:15? Why is this a surprise, given the preceding verses?
6. In 6:1, who does the Lord call to be a witness for Him?
7. In 6:2, against whom does the Lord have a complaint?
8. What questions does the Lord ask His people in 6:3?
9. From where does the Lord say He freed His people in 6:4? Who did the Lord give His people to lead them? How is this verse an answer to the questions God asks in 6:3?
10. According to Numbers 23 and 24, Balak the King of Moab asked Balaam to curse the people of Israel, but Balaam ended up blessing them. However, according to Numbers 25:1, when the people camped in Acacia Grove ("Shittim" in Hebrew), they "began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab." And according to Numbers 31:16, Balaam encouraged the Moabite women to tempt the Israelites to such infidelity. What conclusion does 6:5 want the people to draw from remembering this history?
11. In verses 6 and 7, the people respond to the Lord's accusations by suggesting various kinds of sacrifices. What sort of sacrifice do they mention in verse 6?
12. What three kinds of sacrifices do the people suggest in verse 7?
13. What three things does Micah say the Lord requires of His people?

Summary and Application:

1. In 5:10-13, the Lord lists all sorts of things in which people might be tempted to put their faith. Which of these things continue to be a problem in the modern world? Which of them do you find tempting?
2. Why would the mountains and the hills make good witnesses for God? What do they testify about Him?
3. Given the way God's people responded in 6:5 to the blessings God gave them in 6:4, how do these two verses provide an example of God's grace?
4. How do the Lord's requirements in 6:8 demonstrate the impotence of the sacrifices suggested in 6:6-7? Given the grace that God has demonstrated to His people throughout this passage, how are the requirements in 6:8 an appropriate way for His people to respond to Him?