



# The Righteous Pharisee

**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.**

**Matthew 5:20**

**The problem is in the attempt to live Jewish by sheer will power and works have led them down a very dark path**

## Religion, Legalism & Hypocrisy



# History of the Pharisees

**You can trace the origins of the Pharisees back to the Babylonian captivity**

**Mission 1: They wanted to preserve the Holy Scriptures**



**The studied it and committed it to memory**

**The taught it and read it to others**

**They copied it making sure when it was time to go home it went with them**



# History of the Pharisees

**Mission 2: Teach the Jewish people how to stay faithful in captivity**

**Remember the entire Jewish religious system was centered around a building --- the temple**

**Their entire religious worship was tied to one action --- sacrifice**

**The temple was burned to the ground and now there was no way to celebrate the way God commanded. **What do we do?****



# History of the Pharisees

**The Pharisees were the ones that stepped in and encouraged the Israelites stay faithful.**

**They were the ones that created the synagogue system.**

**They were the ones that provided guidance on how the Jews could keep their faith symbolically**

**They were the ones that created structure for the Jews to follow and be faithful.**



# **How did they Become the Villains?**

**They changed the order of their missions**

**As time went on, they began seeing themselves as the protector of Jewish faith**

**The made-up rules became the important part.**

**Lost in translation that even under Old Testament law it was about relationship not religion.**

**They began looking for a Messiah that would make their life better not complete**



**As time passed, it was  
no longer about helping**

**People**

**but living a**

**Process**



# Woe 1:

**“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.**

**Matthew 23:13**





# Jesus' Two Issues

**Issue 1: You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people's faces**

**Jesus has issue with the fact the Pharisees were making it hard for people to access God**

**They are placing barriers in the way**

**These barriers come in the form of man-made rules and edicts**

**Equal with What God Said**



# Jesus' Two Issues

**Every denomination or non-domination has "unwritten" rules.**

**By unwritten I mean they may have tie ins with the Bible, but they are not "laws."**

**They maybe things that very smart men came up with, but we need to remember they are still just very smart men.**

## Best of Intentions



# Jesus' Two Issues

**Every church culture has best practices**

**Ways we like things done**

**Preferences we have in  
worship style**

**Things we say make church.**

**The things may not be “bad”,  
but they can become barriers**



# Cumbersome

**They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.**

**Imply heaviness and bulkiness that make for difficulty in grasping, moving, carrying, or manipulating.**

**They added so much weight to God nobody could get it.**



# Jesus' Two Issues

**Issue 2: You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.**

**They also were not willing to have a relationship with God.**

**They loved the law and rules not God.**

**At the end of the exercise nobody could live up to the standard to be worthy of God.**



# Jesus Solution

**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.**

**Matthew 5:20**

**Acting in accord with divine or moral law:  
free from guilt or sin.**

**Morally right or justifiable**



# Jesus Solution

**They defined their righteousness by their religion**

**They were more religious than any person I have ever met in the church**

**They had laws on top of laws telling people how to be righteous**

**They had more laws than even they could keep**



# **The Right Kind of Righteousness**

**But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.**

**Philippians 3:7-10**





# **The Rhinestone Pharisee**

**Circumcised on the eighth day**

**Of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin**

**A Hebrews of Hebrew**

**In regard to the law, a Pharisee**

**As for zeal, persecuting the church**

**As for righteousness based on the law, faultless**



# The Rhinestone Pharisee

**That's not enough!**

**I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.**

**I consider everything a loss because  
of the surpassing worth of knowing  
Christ Jesus my Lord.**

**I consider them garbage**

## What Changed?



# What Changed?

**I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.**

**The short answer is Paul found Jesus**

**Paul did not become unrighteous, instead he chose a different kind of righteousness**



# **The Right Kind of Righteousness**

**His faith was not picture perfect as in his writing he talks about struggles he had and sin in him that just would not quit**

**In his writing Paul never said live it the way I live it**

**He did say live it alongside me**

**Live it as unto the Lord**

**Live it until life has all been lived**



**Rhinestone  
Christian  
WHOA!**

