

## Angry Jesus – Behind the Mask: Woes Part II

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Matthew 23:23 - 30  
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### **Small Group Discussion Questions**

**In Matthew 23, we are finishing looking at the Woes to the Pharisees**  
In their attempt to define the law, the Pharisees have become arrogant legalists.

- \*How have you seen legalism- from yourself or the church on your journey?
- \*Why do you think this behavior makes Jesus so angry?

#### **Read and discuss**

Matthew 23:23 - 30 (ESV)

<sup>23</sup> “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. <sup>24</sup> You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!

<sup>25</sup> “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. <sup>26</sup> You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.

<sup>27</sup> “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people’s bones and all uncleanness. <sup>28</sup> So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

<sup>29</sup> “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous,<sup>30</sup> saying, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’

- \*Who or what was Jesus angry about in the passage? Who or what was he not angry at?
- \*What are the implications of Jesus’ anger for us?

#### **Jesus called them hypocrites**

One who acts a part; one who wears a mask that hides true feelings

- \*What are reasons we put on this mask to impress others?
- \*How do we get caught up in the desire to convince people of our godliness?

#### **These masks aren’t just for others**

We sometimes wear a mask to try to impress God.

- \*What are reasons we try to impress God? Why would we think this will work?
- \*What are the differences between pleasing God and trusting God?

### **We don't have to wear the mask**

We can stop trying to prove how righteous we are to God and to others.

\*Who has been helpful to you in being able to take off your mask? Why?

\*How can we help others to feel comfortable to take off theirs?

### **We have a choice of where to live**

We can live in the Room of Good Intentions - OR – we can choose the Room of Grace

\*What effect does what we believe about our identity have on which we choose?

\*What are the differences between shame and guilt?

\*How does shame keep us in our masks?

\*How did it feel to reflect on the words you would write on the inside of your mask?

\*What would it be like to take off and keep off your mask?