

WALK THE TALK //

This page is designed for you to apply what you have learned from the Scriptures. Our goal is not just “to know” but to “act upon what we know.” (His Word, Our Walk!) We encourage you to discuss the following questions with family, friends and your group.



FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Which of the four areas speaks to you the loudest?
2. In which of the four areas do you feel the most satisfaction? Would those who know you best agree with you on this?
3. What change in thinking will this require to focus on being rather than on doing?
4. Can you think of people that you know who seem to be focused on BEING rather than DOING? What do you like about them? What can you learn from that?

NOT: Empty Religion

BUT: Authentic Faith

Ask: *Is my faith real to me or has it become a tradition?*

Matt. 23:13-17

NOT: Exotic Rituals

BUT: Giving Grace

Ask: *Do I give others the benefit of the doubt or am I judging too harshly?*

Matt. 23:23-24

NOT: External Holiness

BUT: Righteous Heart

Ask: *Am I the same person in public and private?*

Matt. 23:25-28

NOT: Extreme Arrogance

BUT: True Humility

Ask: *Do I perceive myself as better than others?*

Matt. 23:29-32



December 30 & 31, 2017 | You Are Not Forgotten | Matt. 23 | Dennis Miller, pastor

WHAT MATTERS IS WHO WE ARE

1. With whom do you most _____ in the nativity set? Is it Joseph because he is the “_____ guy?” We know him best _____ for what he did, but for _____ he was.
2. Most people are focused on _____ they should ____!

Luke 3:7 John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ . . . Luke 3:10 “What should we do then?” the crowd asked. . . . 12 Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?” . . . 14 Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” . . .

— The rich young ruler asked the _____ thing:

Matt. 19:16 Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, “Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?”

3. Jesus’ response is shocking and yet it reminds us that _____ is more important than _____.

Matt. 19:17 “Why do you ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments.”

Matt. 19:18 “Which ones?” he inquired. Jesus replied, “‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, 19 honor your father and mother,’ and ‘love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Matt. 19:20 “All these I have kept,” the young man said. “What do I still lack?”

Matt. 19:21 Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

4. If you are the _____ person, you will do the _____ things!

5. The Pharisees spent their lives focused on _____, but Jesus told them clearly that they should focus on _____.

JESUS GAVE FOUR DIRECTIONS TO CHURCH PEOPLE (PHARISEES)

1. You have an _____ religion but what you need is an _____ faith.

Matt. 23:13 "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."

Matt. 23:15 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are."

Matt. 23:16 "Woe to you, blind guides! You say, 'If anyone swears by the temple, it means nothing; but anyone who swears by the gold of the temple is bound by that oath.' 17 You blind fools! Which is greater: the gold, or the temple that makes the gold sacred?"

Ask: Is my faith real to me or has it become a tradition?

2. You have _____ rituals but what you need is to be _____.

Matt. 23:23 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. 24 You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel."

Ask: Do I give others the benefit of the doubt or am I judging too harshly?

3. You have an _____ holiness but what you need is a righteous _____.

Matt. 23:25 "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. 26 Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean."

Matt. 23:27 "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 the bones of the dead and everything unclean. 28 In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness."

Ask: Am I the same person in public and private?

4. You have _____ arrogance but what you need is true _____.

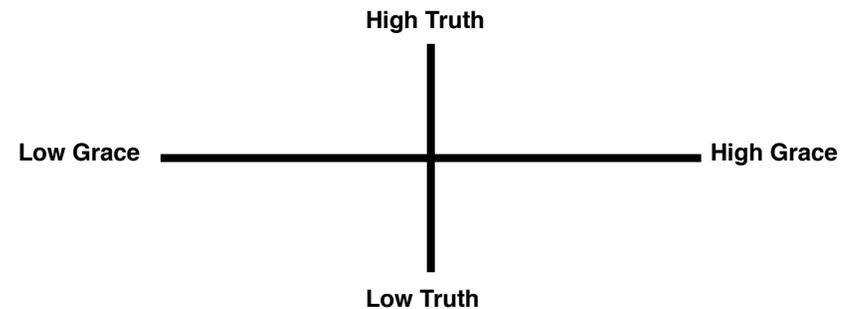
Matt. 23:29 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You build

tombs for the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous. 30 And you say, 'If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.' 31 So you testify against yourselves that you are the descendants of those who murdered the prophets. 32 Go ahead, then, and complete what your ancestors started!"

Ask: Do I perceive myself as better than others?

APPLICATION

1. Review this _____.
2. Identify which of these traps are most _____ for you and when or where they become an even _____ issue?
3. Spend time with _____ friends, and be a _____ friend.



4. Give yourself some _____ as you work on these things.

REMEMBER:

1. God has a _____ for every life, but we want to _____ the person that He intends so we can _____ His purpose.
2. It won't matter too much _____ you _____, until you become the person that you _____ to _____.
3. As you become the person that God has _____, you will find several things to be _____:
 - a. You will naturally _____ the things that you _____ (and God wants you) to _____.
 - b. You will understand your purpose much more _____.
 - c. You will be more _____ in all that you do.
 - d. You will find a new level of _____.