

**Authority and Anger #1**

**Matthew 23:1-12** <sup>1</sup>Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: <sup>2</sup>"The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. <sup>3</sup>So you must obey them and do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. <sup>4</sup>They tie up heavy loads and put them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them. <sup>5</sup>"Everything they do is done for men to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; <sup>6</sup>they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; <sup>7</sup>they love to be greeted in the marketplaces and to have men call them 'Rabbi.' <sup>8</sup>"But you are not to be called 'Rabbi,' for you have only one Master and you are all brothers. <sup>9</sup>And do not call anyone on earth 'father,' for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. <sup>10</sup>Nor are you to be called 'teacher,' for you have one Teacher, the Christ. <sup>11</sup>The greatest among you will be your servant. <sup>12</sup>For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. (NIV 84)

This is the beginning of a mini-series in which we look at Jesus's response when he was angry at the spiritual leaders of His day.

**I. Jesus acknowledges their authority.**

- A.** The people still need to respect the seat of authority that their spiritual leaders have. V.2
- B.** Obeying this authority is important. V. 3
- C.** However, their sinful actions should not be imitated. V. 3

**II. What are some of the sinful actions that the leaders do?**

- A.** They put burdens on people but are unwilling to help them with these burdens. V. 4  
There is a difference between a load and a burden.
- B.** Their righteousness is only for show. V. 5-6
- C.** They love their titles. V. 7-11 Their titles that they love were: rabbi, father, teacher.
- D.** They have worldly aspirations of greatness and do not understand God's view of greatness. V. 11-12

**III. Here are some important lessons on dealing with sinful spiritual leaders.**

- A.** God's word still must be obeyed even regarding the way that you treat them.  
**Romans 13:1-2** Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. <sup>2</sup>Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. (NIV 84)
- B.** Always weigh what they teach with Scripture. If it doesn't match with Scripture do not obey them. Obey God rather than man.
- C.** When choosing spiritual leaders look for humility and a loving spirit. Many gifted people lack these important characteristics.
- D.** Never put another human in place of where God is supposed to be. This works both ways: Don't elevate them to deity and don't expect them to be perfect.