**Week of July 8, 2018**

**Matthew 23: 1-4, 23-26**

**Woe to the Scribes and Pharisees**

23 Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, 2saying: “The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. 3Therefore whatever they tell you [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+23%3A1-4&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-23922a)]to observe, *that* observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. 4For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay *them* on men’s shoulders; but they *themselves* will not move them with one of their fingers.

23“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier *matters* of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. 24Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!

25“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+23%3A23-26&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-23944a)]self-indulgence. 26Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.

**Understanding of the Scripture**

We have all heard the word practice what you preach. Many of us have also heard the word do as I say although the person may not be doing it themselves. In this week’s scripture Jesus is once again teaching about how we should treat others. He is addressing the errors of the Scribes and Pharisees. The Scribes were copyists of the Scriptures. Their role and calling were of very early origin. The work of the Scribe was to study and interpret, as well as copy, the Scriptures. Because of their close acquaintance with the law they were also called lawyers, and became recognized authorities. The Pharisees was a religious party or school among the Jews at the time of Jesus Christ. Jesus taught that the people were to obey those who were in charge especially those whose words and teachings are true and have your best interest at heart. We have all heard the saying that when you point one finger at a person that there are four others pointing back at you. The moral of that phrase is that we are not to be so quick to point out the faults and behaviors of others while at the same time claiming to be doing the right thing when we are actually not doing so. It is key for those of us who inspire to be leaders or are currently leaders that we not only speak about what is right but our actions should also match it as well. So what is a hypocrites? A hypocrite is one who practices hypocrisy. Hypocrisy is the practice of claiming to have moral standards or beliefs to which one's own behavior does not conform; pretense. Jesus despised this type of behavior. Jesus also discusses that it is not good to put heavy burdens on others and chose not to assist in lifting those burdens. This scripture also hits home regarding self-proclaiming of ones righteousness and well they are doing thing while at the same time failing to offer up justice and mercy and having little faith. Although Jesus in the scripture was talking to the religious leaders (Scribe and Pharisees) of the time, the application of the text for us today is that we should treat others and how we carry ourselves internally and externally.

