

**I DON'T WANT TO BE A PHARISEE**  
**(Matthew 23:1-12)**

**I. One criticizes Jesus.**

- A. Some may say, "I would never criticize Jesus."
- B. Is not disobeying Jesus being critical of Him?
- C. What about criticizing what Jesus taught about the church?
  - 1. Jesus said He would build one church (Matthew 16:18).
  - 2. What about those that say "one is good as another?"
  - 3. Or, "attend the church of your choice?"
  - 4. It is critical of Jesus to read His word and still do what we want to do or believe what we want to believe.
- D. We can be critical of Jesus in keeping of any of His commands.
  - 1. John 14:15.
  - 2. We are critical of Him when we disobey His commands about worship.
  - 3. We are critical when we disobey His commands concerning giving.
- E. Whenever we take the attitude of "I don't care what it says, I believe this," or, "I am going to do this" we are being critical of Jesus.

**II. One cares not about lost souls.**

- A. The Pharisees could not believe that Jesus would have anything to do with sinners (Mark 2:15-16).
- B. Do we show the same kind of attitude toward the lost at times?
- C. What about towards those that don't look like us?
- D. Or, what about towards those that don't talk like us?
- E. Or, what about towards those that don't dress as well as we do?
- F. It is a great thing that we do in sending out House-to-House.
  - 1. But if we believe that is going to do the work for us then we sadly mistaken/
  - 2. It is simply a tool to use in inviting people to investigate the Lord's church.
  - 3. We are to still obey the great commission and "go."
- G. Paul said that our God "will have all men to be saved" (1 Timothy 2:4).
  - 1. Do we really want all men to be saved?
  - 2. What about that neighbor that we don't like because he keeps his yard in a mess?
  - 3. What about that relative who is so unlikable at the family get-togethers?
- H. We need to have the same love for the lost that Jesus did (Luke 19:10).

**III. One chooses not to forgive those who sin against him/her.**

- A. There is not one person here who fails to sin from time to time.
- B. Everyone is in the same need for forgiveness.
- C. Luke 15:11-32 contains the parable of the two sons.
  - 1. One son showed contempt for his father and wanted his inheritance before his father died.
  - 2. He got that inheritance, left and wasted it and found himself

slopping the hogs.

3. He came to himself and asked for forgiveness from his father.
  4. The other son, the oldest, would not forgive his brother and could not understand how his father could do so.
  5. He was angry and spiteful toward his brother and father.
- D. The point is, he was so busy looking out for his brother's sins, he could not see his own need for forgiveness.
- E. This is Phariseeism (Matthew 23:25-26).
- F. Jesus taught his disciples to forgive others in order to have their sins forgiven by the Father (Matthew 6:12).

**IV. One consciously plays the role of a hypocrite.**

- A. Matthew 23:14.
- B. Someone wrote, "Do you pray for unity, and yet cause division and strife? Do you pray for widows and orphans and let them starve to death? Do you go to worship and then walk on the other side when something needs to be done (Luke 10)? Do you attend worship and then close your eyes to opportunities? If so, then you're a Pharisee."
- C. We might add to that, do you say one thing to one person and something different to someone else?
- D. Or, do you require one thing of someone else and another thing for yourself - do you hold others to a higher standard?
- E. This is what the Pharisees did (Matthew 23:3-4).

**V. One concerns him/herself only with appearances.**

- A. The Pharisees did a lot of great works.
1. They gave to God in the temple.
  2. They prayed.
  3. They fasted.
- B. The problem was they did it so others could see it (Matthew 23:5).
- C. Why do you do what you do for Christ?
1. Is it for recognition?
  2. Do you want the praise of others for your actions?
- D. You might say that you would never do that.
1. How do you feel when you don't get praised for something?
  2. Do you feel insulted?
  3. Do you feel like you want to give because you weren't praised?
- E. These attitudes are extremely close to that of the Pharisees.

**VI. One constantly finds fault in others.**

- A. The Pharisees were known for being hyper-critical.
- B. Luke 6:7.
1. The word "watched" is interesting.
  2. It means to observe with sinister intent.
  3. They were looking for fault in Jesus.
- C. There are those who come to services for no other reason it seems than to find fault with their brethren.
1. Guess what?
  2. You will always find fault with something if that is what your intent

- is.
3. You will create it in your own mind even if it is not there in reality.
- D. As the old saying goes, "Some are just born in the vindictive case and the kickative mood."
- E. Jesus described them this way...(Matthew 23:24).
- F. We need to remember that love "thinketh no evil" (1 Corinthians 13:5).

From an article by Neil Richey.