



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Matthew 23
- Matthew 5-7
- John 5

THE HYPOCRATITUDES

- Right Seat Wrong Heart
- Assault on Hypocrisy
- Final Verdict

“If you do not believe Moses’ writings, how will you believe My words?” If the Lord says that to you, be certain you are missing something important from Moses’ words. The disconnect comes easy when you spend enough time doing your own thing, while convincing yourself you are doing the Lord’s thing. Even worse is if you teach others to do the same. The end of that game is a disaster. You will fall so far down the rabbit hole that you can’t climb out. Before that happens, before you are convicted of always saying, but never doing, or doing, but doing the things of men and calling them the things of God, stop! Take pause while it’s not too late.

The whole of this attitude towards God is hypocrisy—bending His words to say what you want them to say, so you can do what you want to do, while claiming moral superiority over those who don’t follow your ways. Another form of sanctimony is to say one

thing and practice another, while judging others for practicing one thing and saying another. Do this often enough and you will become as helpless as a greased egg trying to climb up a waterslide. There are a few guarantees in store for such practitioners. Everything covered will be revealed; everything hidden will be known. And, you will not escape the judgment of God!

The entire outcome hinges on your attitude. If you have a “beatitude,” it will afford the blessings bestowed upon those whose hearts are fixed on the kingdom of heaven—those who know what the kingdom of heaven is like and endeavor to live as such. If you have a “hypocratitude,” it will afford the woes bestowed upon those who live in hypocrisy and sanctimony—those who say and do not do, while judging others who do the same.

You choose: blessings—bliss, ecstasy, exaltation, supreme happiness, and heavenly joy. Or, woes—sorrow, distress, wretchedness, sadness, heartache, despondency, desolation, despair, trouble, difficulty, tribulation, burden, misfortune, disaster, and tragedy. Know this, when the Lord speaks to you, if it sounds anything like this: “Woe to you...,” instead of “Blessed are you...,” rethink your approach immediately. Realign your attitude towards the words of Moses and the words of Y’shua. How, you might ask? First believe Moses’ words, if ever you hope to believe the words of Christ! And newsflash—Christ’s words were written about you!

PROPHETIC SEED:

“Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, saying: “The scribes and the Pharisees sit in **Moses’ seat**. Therefore **whatever they tell you to observe**, that **observe and do**, but **do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do.**” Matthew 23:1-3 NKJV

“Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. **For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.** But **if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?**” John 5:45-47 NKJV

PROPHETIC FRUIT:

“And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. **Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: “Blessed are...”** Matthew 5:1-3 NKJV

Let’s Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

Introduction

Last week in [Mic Drop](#) Y’shua taught from the Temple. We heard the parable of the wedding feast and how all the original

invitees refused to attend. As a result, new guests were invited, and out of all those who decided to come, some were turned away because they were ill-prepared. Then the Pharisees, Sadducees, Herodians, and Scribes lined up to question Y'shua, all with intentions to entrap Him—all were unsuccessful.

Then it was Y'shua's turn. He posed a very provocative question to the Pharisees and Scribes. Since you all know that the coming Messiah is the called the Son of David, why does the Spirit inspire David to call the coming Messiah "Lord"? They are left in stunned silence.

This week, still in the temple, Y'shua continues His offensive assault on the religious leaders of the day for their hypocrisy! This "not so gentle Jesus" approach began in Chapter 21 (see [Going on the Offensive](#)). Some view this discourse as if it stands apart from the fifth and final discourse in Matthew 24-25 (the Olivet Discourse). I personally favor this view. It has all the qualities of a teaching that stands alone. It's main content contains the stiffest rebuke of religious hypocrisy yet, but it ends with a final heartfelt appeal. Please come under my teachings and authority—you will safe there and I will provide all you will ever need. Yet, He knows in His heart that most who receive His original invitation won't, and for that He is very sorrowful.

Matthew 23

Moses' Seat

1. Y'shua addresses a large gathering along with His disciples about the scribes and the Pharisees!
2. The instructs them that scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat (have legitimate authority).
3. You must follow what they teach relative to the word of God.
4. However, you are NOT to copy what they do because their actions are not consistent with their words.
5. They place impossible burdens on the people as the required mechanism to become acceptable to God; but they don't even try to help the people, nor do they require the same burdens of themselves.
6. They make everything they do for God a public show
 - (a) all their spiritual practices
 - (b) all their prayers
 - (c) even the clothes they wear are meant to draw attention to themselves.
 - (d) They grab the front row at every event in the synagogues.
 - (e) They love all the attention.
 - (f) And everywhere they go they want people to recognize them as THE 'Rabbi.'
7. You have ONE Rabbi, ONE Father, ONE Teacher

- (a) Don't demand to be called Rabbi; there is One Teacher, the Christ, and you are all equals under Christ.
 - (b) Do not insist you be called father; there is One Father in heaven.
 - (c) Do not insist you be the teachers; there is One Teacher, the Christ.
8. Y'shua again reminds them of what a true servant looks like: great ones will serve and exalted one will be humble.

The Eight Woes of the Scribes and Pharisees

9. But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!
- 1) You misrepresent the kingdom of heaven because you don't understand it yourself and therefore you cause others to be confused about it!
 - 2) You extract every last resource from widows instead of comforting them in their loss, and you use elaborate prayers as an act to make people believe you are authentic. There is more punishment for your type of hypocrite than any other.
 - 3) You go all over to evangelize, but you are really only using your influence to enrich yourselves with money and power. You wish to convert people into becoming your followers and when they follow you they become like you and even worse!

- 4) You are really just blind men leading the blind. You are completely hung up on material things instead of true worship. You give more value to objects of wealth and care more deeply about appearances, especially how sharing your stuff makes you look, than you do for holiness and godliness, that which God truly values. Only a fool gives precedence to things which will perish and only a man filled with God's righteousness makes heavenly things a priority.
- 5) You are hyper-concerned about the minute details of the law instead of seeing how God's laws reflect God's heart. God is infinitely more concerned with justice, mercy and faith than your obsession with using His commands, as if completing a checklist will make you more pleasing to God. Sure, every one of God's laws are important, but they lose their meaning if you dismiss God's true intent, in lieu of simply checking things off on a to-do list.
- 6) You are so concerned for how you look on the outside that you have completely lost touch with what is really going on in your heart. You prioritize every activity that will polish your look, and your obsession with appearance fuels your willingness to do anything and everything to bolster your self-interest and status. In reality, if you focused on truly giving

your heart to God, your outer beauty would have appeared naturally.

- 7) You are so consumed with how things appear when others see you that you have absolutely no inner peace. Your obsession with looking like an obedient child of God has such a grip on you that you can't even recognize your rebellion, and that you are literally dead on the inside.
- 8) You are so oblivious to who you are on the inside that you are happy to admit you come from those who killed, buried and celebrated the death of God's prophets and the righteous men. You can't even recognize you have the same heart and would have done the same thing. I know this because you did it to John the Baptist and you have responded to Me that same way! You are just as guilty now as they were then; every choice you make today testifies against you. Your corruption runs so deep; it's as if the devil is consuming you from the inside out! If I sent you modern-day prophets, men guided by God, and true biblical law experts, right now, you'd abuse, criticize, censure, condemn, attack and even kill some of them. You'd persecute them violently, nail them to a cross, beat them and whip them to the point that their flesh was torn from their bodies. You are so evil that you'd do it right in the midst of your religious institutions and think

nothing of it. And, if necessary, you'd chase them down from city to city, so they could not escape your vitriol. You are as guilty as anyone who has ever shed the blood of an innocent man! You will NOT escape judgment for these things.

Y'shua Laments over Jerusalem

10. I wish the people of my own bloodline would recognize where they come from, repent of their past sins and come under my covering, but I know they won't!
11. So, as a result, they will be left by the wayside and I will find new people who will say, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"

RIGHT SEAT WRONG HEART

1. Moses' Seat

A. Abuse of Power

- (1) Do what they instruct, but not do what they do.
 - (a) **The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat.**
 1. "Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, saying: **"The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. For 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. But **all their works they do to be seen by men.** They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. They **love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues,** greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, '**Rabbi, Rabbi.**' But you, **do not be called 'Rabbi';** for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. **Do not call anyone on earth your father;** for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. And **do not be called teachers;** for One is your Teacher, the Christ. **But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.** And **whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."** Matthew 23:1-12 NKJV

B. Moses' Seat Explained

(1) Bookends!

(a) Y'shua addresses a large gathering along with His disciples

1. Prophetic Lightbulb: This is the other bookend of the Sermon on the Mount.

- a) **The Sermon on the Mount:** “And seeing the **multitudes**, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated **His disciples** came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: **“Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”** Matthew 5:1-3 NKJV
- b) **The Seat of Moses:** “Then Jesus spoke to the **multitudes** and to **His disciples**, saying: **“The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat.”** Matthew 23:1-2 NKJV
- 1) Y’shua is about to address a large audience about the scribes and the Pharisees, in the presence of the scribes and the Pharisees.
 - 2) He is about to compare and contrast what He began to reveal about the kingdom of heaven in the Sermon on the Mount with the Seat of Moses (when it is handled incorrectly)!
 - 3) This teaching (or more accurately this rebuke) will close the book on His instructions. After this it is all about what’s coming in the future and then all the events around His betrayal, the cross, His resurrection, and final commission!

2. The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. What does that mean?
- a) The "Seat of Moses" was a symbol of legitimate biblical legal authority conferred upon teachers of God's Law.
 - b) A "seat" is a place of authority similar to our modern use of the word "bench".
 - c) A judge is said to "occupy the bench," and the word bench may even be used as a substitute for the judge, as in "the ruling from the bench."
 - d) The teachers of the law and Pharisees were supposed to continue in the footsteps of Moses.
 - e) They were the interpreters and enforcers of the law in the same way, Moses sat and judged the people. *"And so it was, on the next day, that **Moses sat to judge the people**; and the people stood before Moses from morning until evening."* Exodus 18:13 NKJV (Read all of Exodus 18)
 - f) If someone wanted to know what Moses would say about something, he would consult an expert in the Law of Moses—a Pharisee or a teacher of the law, specifically a scribe (a Biblical Lawyer).

- g) What Moses said was binding, so anyone who was in the position to tell people what Moses said was himself in a position of great authority.
 - h) Hint: this is the position Y'shua is taking, while simultaneously removing the scribes and Pharisees from that position. They are NOT happy!
3. You must follow what they teach relative to the word of God
- a) However, you are NOT to copy what they do because their actions are not consistent with their words. They are in the "Right Seat Wrong Application" or "Right Seat Wrong Attitude" or better yet "Right Seat Wrong Beatitude"
 - 1) In other words, they will preach God's word but they don't practice God's word—"for they say, and do not do."
 - b) Exactly what Y'shua warned in the Sermon on the Mount (the other bookend). You must be better than this!
 - 1) "Whoever therefore **breaks** one of the least of these commandments, and **teaches** men so, shall be called **least** in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever **does** and **teaches** them, he shall be

called **great** in the kingdom of heaven. For I say to you, that **unless your righteousness exceeds** the righteousness of the **scribes and Pharisees**, you will by **no means enter the kingdom of heaven.**" Matthew 5:19-20 NKJV

c) Be a doer of what you say, not just a sayer of what you say! Look at it, understand it, do it—be blessed. "Blessed are you..."

1) "**But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.** For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But **he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it**, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, **this one will be blessed** in what he does." James 1:22-25 NKJV

d) Faith without doing what your faith commands is no faith at all!

1) "But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." **Show me your faith without your**

works, and I will show you my faith by my works." James 2:18 NKJV

2) "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so **faith without works is dead also.**" James 2:26 NKJV

e) These scribes and Pharisees teach their own things from the seat of Moses (the doctrines and commandments of men) instead of teaching what Moses taught!

1) "**Hypocrites!** Well did Isaiah [29:13] prophesy about you, saying: 'These people **draw near to Me with their mouth**, And honor Me with their lips, But their **heart is far from Me**. And **in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.**' "" Matthew 15:7-9 NKJV

4. They place impossible man-made burdens on the people, as the required mechanism to become acceptable to God; but they don't even try to help the people, nor do they require the same burdens of themselves.

a) Again the opposite end of Y'shua's teachings!

- 1) “For **this is the love of God**, that we keep His commandments. And **His commandments are not burdensome.**” I John 5:3 NKJV
 - 2) “**Come to Me**, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For **My yoke is easy and My burden is light.**” Matthew 11:28-30 NKJV
5. They make everything they do for God a public show
- a) ...all their spiritual practices
 - b) ...all their prayers
 - c) ...even the clothes they wear are to draw attention to themselves.
 - d) They grab the front row at every event in the synagogues. They love all the attention.
 - e) And everywhere they go they want people to recognize them as THE ‘Rabbi.’
 - f) They do the exact opposite of doing things in secret, as taught in the Sermon on the Mount.
- 1) “But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, **that your charitable deed may be in**

secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.” Matthew 6:3-4 NKJV

2) “But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, **pray to your Father who is in the secret place;** and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.” Matthew 6:6 NKJV

3) “But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, **but to your Father who is in the secret place;** and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.” Matthew 6:17-18 NKJV

6. You have ONE Rabbi, ONE Father, ONE Teacher

- a) Don't demand to be called Rabbi; there is One Teacher, the Christ, and you are all equals under Christ.
- b) Do not insist you be called father; there is One Father in heaven.
- c) Do not require you be the teacher; there is One Teacher, the Christ.

- 1) Does it mean that these titles are wrong unto themselves? No!
- 2) It is the insistence that one be THE Rabbi, Father, Teacher, drawing attention to oneself, as opposed to pointing to the Christ who points to the Father.
- 3) As opposed to... *"He must increase, but I must decrease."* John 3:30 NKJV
- d) There is no authority structure that does not have Christ on top, who always pointed to His Father in heaven!
 - 1) *"In this manner, therefore, pray: **Our Father in heaven**, Hallowed be Your name."* Matthew 6:9 NKJV
- e) The order is clear!
 - 1) **"But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God."** I Corinthians 11:3 NKJV
- f) Plus, the teacher position is one that should be feared!

- 1) “My brethren, **let not many of you become teachers**, knowing that we **shall receive a stricter judgment.**” James 3:1 NKJV
7. Y’shua again reminds them of what a true servant looks like: great ones will serve and exalted ones will be humble—unlike these men who wish to sit in Moses’ seat, who do the exact opposite!
 - a) Remember when the mother of James and John asked Y’shua to give them positions of authority! He said great ones serve and those who are out front should act as if they are the slaves to all whom they lead.
 - 1) “But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, “You know that those who are considered **rulers over the Gentiles** Lord it over them, and their **great ones exercise authority over them.** Yet it shall **not be so among you**; but whoever **desires to become great** among you shall **be your servant.** And whoever of you **desires to be first shall be slave of all.** For even **the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,** and to give His life a ransom for many.”” Mark 10:42-45 NKJV

b) At the Last Supper (His final preparation to become the Passover Lamb), and knowing the time had come for His betrayal and death, He got down on His knees and washed the feet of those He led!

1) “After that, He poured water into a basin and began to **wash the disciples’ feet**, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, “Lord, are You washing my feet?” Jesus answered and said to him, **“What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this.”**” John 13:5-7 NKJV

c) Why?

1) **“So when He had washed their feet**, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, **“Do you know what I have done to you?** You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, **you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.** Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater

than he who sent him. **If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.**" John 13:12-17
NKJV

- a. This pure act of service and humility was an example of how we should lead.
 - b. Those in Moses' seat should exercise their authority by serving, not demanding they be called Rabbi, Father, Teacher.
 - c. They should serve rather than demand others serve them.
 - d. They should DO, not just instruct others to DO, whilst they DON'T!
 - e. If you know these things, "Blessed are you..."
- d) What is the outcome of going to the place of serving rather than being served, to give your life for others?
- 1) **"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus**, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became

obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. **Therefore God also has highly exalted Him** and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Philippians 2:5-11 NKJV

- a. You go low and God will exalt you!

*“Therefore **humble yourselves** under the mighty hand of God, **that He may exalt you in due time,**”* 1 Peter 5:6 NKJV

- b. You go high and God will bring you down!

*“**How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!** How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! **For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like***

the Most High. Yet *you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.*" Isaiah 14:12-15 NKJV

C. Timeline Timeout!

(1) Let's review recent events so we can see where we are at this moment!

(a) Entry into Jerusalem (the Triumphal Entry)

1. "And **when He had come into Jerusalem**, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?" Matthew 21:10 NKJV

(b) That same day in the temple...

1. "Then Jesus **went into the temple** of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and **overturned the tables** of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves." Matthew 21:12 NKJV

(c) The Next day—in the temple

1. "Then He left them and went out of the city to Bethany, and He lodged there. **Now in the morning, as He returned to the city**, He was hungry." Matthew 21:17-18 NKJV
2. "Now when **He came into the temple**, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, "By what authority are

You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?" Matthew 21:23 NKJV

- a) On that day from the temple (See [Going on the Offensive](#))
 - 1) He claims His authority (Matthew 21:23-27)
 - 2) Teaches about obedience to the Father in *The Parable of Two Sons* (Matthew 21:28-32)
 - 3) Teaches about rejecting the son in *The Parable of the Wicked Vinedressers* (Matthew 21:33-46)
- b) Still on the same day from the temple (See [Mic Drop](#))
 - 1) He Teaches about rejecting the wedding invitation in *The Parable of the Wedding Feast* (Matthew 22:1-14)
 - 2) Is questioned by the Pharisees, Herodians, Sadducees, and Scribes—each being left silent (Matthew 22:15-40)
 - 3) And then He has a question of His own for the religious leaders. This puts an end to their public enquiries once and for all. (Matthew 22:41-46)
- c) And now from that same spot in the Temple...
 - 1) He preaches His magnum opus against hypocrisy. (Matthew 23:1-39)

- 2) THIS IS WHERE WE ARE AT THIS MOMENT!
- d) Then He leaves the Temple...(Matthew 24:1)
 - 1) Completes the Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24-25)
 - 2) And it is two days before Passover... ***"You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified."***
Matthew 26:1-2 NKJV

D. Let's reset the stage...

- (1) All hypocrisy will be exposed!
 - (a) Beware the leaven of the Pharisees which is hypocrisy
 - 1. "In the meantime, when an innumerable multitude of people had gathered together, so that they trampled one another, He began to say to His disciples first of all, **"Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known.**
Therefore whatever you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops." Luke 12:1-3 NKJV
 - a) There is nothing that man can try to cover up that will not be exposed.

b) Everything you hide will be made known!

(b) God's word demands it!

1. "For **the word of God** is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and **is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart**. And there is **no creature hidden from His sight**, but **all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.**"

Hebrews 4:12-13 NKJV

- a) All things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.
- b) That is why if you don't believe Moses writings, or feel you can sit in Moses's seat without really using Moses' words, you will be exposed!

E. If you actually believed Moses, you would believe Y'shua...

(1) You would recognize the Correct Authority Structure

(a) What the seat of Moses SHOULD look like!

1. "For this reason **the Jews persecuted Jesus**, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath. But Jesus answered them, "**My Father** has been working until now, and I have been working." Therefore the Jews sought all the more to

kill Him, **because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.**" John 5:16-18 NKJV

- a) Y'shua had healed the lame man at the pool of Bethesda.
 - b) The religious leaders did not like that He did it on the Sabbath! (Would the writings of Moses support this ruling?) No!
 - c) Y'shua identified Himself as the Son of God ("I work for My Father...")
 - d) The real problem for the religious elite is that they feel He has usurped the "seat of Moses."
 - e) Note to the Hypocrites: **He is the seat of Moses!**
- (b) They wanted to Kill Him because He said... *"My Father has been working until now, and I have been working."*
John 5:17 NKJV

1. "Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **the Son can do nothing of Himself**, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, **and shows Him all things that He Himself does**; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel. **For as the**

Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will. For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. **He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him." John 5:19-23 NKJV**

- a) The Son is not making decisions on His own.
 - b) He was given authority to do so by the Father
 - c) The Father as committed all judgment to the Son.
 - d) He now sits in the Seat of Moses!
- (c) The Father has given Y'shua authority to execute judgment, because He sits in the seat of Moses.
1. ""Most assuredly, I say to you, **he who hears My word and believes** in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, **and shall not come into judgment**, but has passed from death into life. Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when **the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.** For as the Father has life in Himself, **so He has granted the Son** to have life in Himself, **and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.** Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all

who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—**those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.** I can of Myself do nothing. **As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.”** John 5:24-30 NKJV

- a) Okay you scribes and Pharisees. Let Me tell you how this authority structure works.
 - b) If you hear My words and believe, you shall not come under judgment.
 - c) If you hear (and obey) the voice of the Son of God; you will live.
 - d) The Father has granted Him the authority to execute judgment because He is the Son of Man.
 - e) He does not do any of this by Himself.
 - f) He hears, He judges; and His judgment is righteous, because He does not seek His own will but the will of His Father who sent Him.
 - g) That is how the seat of Moses operates correctly!
- (d) A better witness than John the Baptist
1. ““If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true. There is another who bears witness of Me, and I

know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true. You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. **Yet I do not receive testimony from man,** but I say these things that you may be saved. He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light. But I have a greater witness than John's; for **the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me,** that the Father has sent Me. **And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me.** You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe."John 5:31-38 NKJV

- a) John was a great forerunner who announced He was hear!
- b) But John was still just a man and His testimony is NOT from man.
- c) His testimony is directly from God and the evidence is that all the work God gave Him to complete, and the fact that He is doing it!
- d) This work is empowered by God and proves Y'shua is the One sitting in the place of authority!

(e) You search the Scriptures but you completely miss that all the Scriptures point to Me!

1. **“You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.** But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life. “I do not receive honor from men. But I know you, **that you do not have the love of God in you.** I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive. **How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God? Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”**” John 5:39-47 NKJV

- a) If you had the love of God in you, you would see the truth, but you don’t. Ouch!
- b) You are so busy honoring one another that you completely overlooked that it was God you should

be honoring— that is why you insist on all the titles: Rabbi, Father, Teacher

- c) You want all the authority and powers that comes with sitting in Moses' Seat, and you claim that you are using the Torah of Moses as proof of your position...
- d) But, it was the very words of Moses that point towards Y'shua as the Christ—everything He wrote was about Him!
- e) So the reality is this: You don't actually believe Moses, because if you did, you would see that Y'shua is the One sitting in Moses' seat!
- f) Rather, you are just hypocrites, living the exact opposite way He taught you to live when He explained the kingdom of heaven in the Sermon on the Mount!

ASSAULT ON HYPOCRISY

2. The Eight Woes of the Scribes and Pharisees

A. But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!

- (1) The Hypocrasitudes (Yes! Another word I made up!)
 - (a) Hypocrisy at its worst!

1. **“But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!**
For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men;
for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow
those who are entering to go in. **Woe to you, scribes
and Pharisees, hypocrites!** For you devour widows’
houses, and for a pretense make long prayers.
Therefore you will receive greater condemnation.
“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For
you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and
when he is won, you make him twice as much a son
of hell as yourselves. **“Woe to you, blind guides,** who
say, ‘Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing; but
whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is
obliged to perform it.’ Fools and blind! For which is
greater, the gold or the temple that sanctifies the
gold? And, ‘Whoever swears by the altar, it is
nothing; but whoever swears by the gift that is on it,
he is obliged to perform it.’ Fools and blind! For
which is greater, the gift or the altar that sanctifies the
gift? Therefore he who swears by the altar, swears by
it and by all things on it. He who swears by the
temple, swears by it and by Him who dwells in it.
And he who swears by heaven, swears by the throne

of God and by Him who sits on it. **“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. Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel! **“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 self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also. **“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. **“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, and say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.’ “Therefore you are

witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers' guilt. **Serpents, brood of vipers!** How can you escape the condemnation of hell? Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.”
Matthew 23:13-36 NKJV

(2) Definitions

(a) Hypocrisies

1. ...the woes bestowed upon those living in hypocrisy and sanctimony—those who say and do not do, while judging others who do the same.

- a) **Woes:** misery, sorrow, distress, wretchedness, sadness, unhappiness, heartache, despondency, desolation, despair, dejection, depression, gloom, adversity, misfortune, disaster, affliction, suffering, hardship, pain, agony, grief, anguish, torment; trouble, difficulty, tribulation, burden, misfortune, mishap, failure, disaster, tragedy.

(b) Beatitudes

- 1. ...the blessings bestowed upon those whose hearts are fixed on the kingdom of heaven—those who know what the kingdom of heaven is like and endeavor to live as such.

- a) **Blessings:** supreme blessedness, grace, bliss, ecstasy, exaltation, supreme happiness, heavenly joy, divine rapture, saintliness.

(c) Attitudes

- 1. ...the way you approach God's word and His authority structure. You can be authentic and live in integrity, or you can be self-centered making it about your own power and authority.

- a) **Attitude:** point of view, view, viewpoint, vantage point, frame of mind, way of thinking, way of looking at things, school of thought, perspective,

reaction, stance, standpoint, position, inclination, orientation, approach, opinion, ideas, belief, convictions, feelings, sentiments, persuasion, thoughts, thinking, interpretation.

(d) Applications

1. ...what happens when your attitude encounters God's word. Who really sits in the Seat of Moses? Do you have a beatitude or hypocrititude?

a) **Application:** implementation, use, exercise, employment, administration, utilization, practice, exertion, execution, enactment, carrying out, putting into operation or practice.

B. Hypocrititudes vs. Beattitudes

(1) The Eight Woes of the Scribes and Pharisees

(a) But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!

1. You misrepresent the kingdom of heaven because you don't understand it yourself and therefore you cause others to be confused about it! (Matthew 23:13)

a) **"Blessed are the poor in spirit,** For theirs is the **kingdom of heaven."** Matthew 5:3 NKJV

1) You cannot manifest Christ in you because you will not let the Spirit of God dominate your human spirit.

2. You extract every last resource from widows, instead of comforting them in their loss, and you use elaborate prayers as an act to make people believe you are authentic. There is more punishment for your type of hypocrite than any other. (Matthew 23:14)
 - a) **“Blessed are those who mourn,** For they shall be comforted.” Matthew 5:4 NKJV
 - 1) You use others suffering for self-aggrandizement instead of exercising empathy and support.
3. You go all over to evangelize, but you are really only using your influence to enrich yourselves with money and power. You wish to convert people into becoming your followers and when they follow you they become like you and even worse! (Matthew 23:15)
 - a) **“Blessed are the meek,** For they shall inherit the earth.” Matthew 5:5 NKJV
 - 1) Gathering followers! *“For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but **they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by***

whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.” Galatians 6:13-14 NKJV

4. You are really just blind men leading the blind. You are completely hung up on material things instead of true worship. You give more value to objects of wealth and care more deeply about appearances, especially how sharing your stuff makes you look, than you do for holiness and godliness, that which God truly values. Only a fool gives precedence to things which will perish and only a man filled with God’s righteousness makes heavenly things a priority and are thus satisfied no matter what worldly things they possess. (Matthew 23:16-22)

- a) **“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,** For they shall be filled.” Matthew 5:6 NKJV

- 1) **Remember:** *“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For **after all these things the Gentiles seek.** For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But **seek first the kingdom** of God and His righteousness,*

and ***all these things shall be added*** to you.”

Matthew 6:31-33 NKJV

5. You are hyper-concerned about the minute details of the law instead of seeing how God’s laws reflect God’s heart. God is infinitely more concerned with justice, mercy and faith, than your obsession with using His commands, as if completing a checklist will make you more pleasing to God. Sure, every one of God’s laws are important, but they lose their meaning if you dismiss God’s true intent, in lieu of simply checking things off on a to-do list. (Matthew 23:23-24)

- a) **“Blessed are the merciful,** For they shall obtain mercy.” Matthew 5:7 NKJV

- 1) **Remember:** *“But go and learn what this means:*

‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’ [Hosea 6:6]

For I did not come to call the righteous, but

sinner, to repentance.”” Matthew 9:13 NKJV

6. You are so concerned for how you look on the outside that you have completely lost touch with what is really going on in your heart. You prioritize every activity that will polish your look, and your obsession with appearance fuels your willingness to

do anything and everything to bolster your self-interest and status. In reality, if you focused on truly giving your heart to God, your outer beauty would have appeared naturally. (Matthew 23:25-26)

a) **“Blessed are the pure in heart,** For they shall see God.” Matthew 5:8 NKJV

1) **Remember:** *“But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; **for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.**””* I Samuel 16:7 NKJV

7. You are so consumed with how things appear when others see you that you have absolutely no inner peace. Your obsession with looking like an obedient child of God in the eyes of others has such a grip on you that you can’t even recognize your rebellion, and that you are literally dead on the inside. If you just focused on a heart of obedience, your inner turmoil would fade into peaceful contentment. (Matthew 23:27-28)

a) **“Blessed are the peacemakers,** For they shall be called sons of God.” Matthew 5:9 NKJV

- 1) “Now **godliness with contentment** is great gain.” I Timothy 6:6 NKJV
- 2) “If it is possible, as much as depends on you, **live peaceably with all men.**” Romans 12:18 NKJV

8. **Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness...** You are so oblivious to who you are on the inside that you are happy to admit you come from those who killed, buried and celebrated the death of God’s prophets and the righteous men. You can’t even recognize you have the same heart and would have done the same thing. I know this because you did it to John the Baptist and you have responded to Me that same way! You are just as guilty now as they were then; every choice you make today testifies against you. Your corruption runs so deep; it’s as if the devil is consuming you from the inside out! **Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you...** If I sent you modern-day prophets, men guided by God, and true biblical law experts, right now, you’d abuse, criticize, censure, condemn, attack and even kill some of them. You’d persecute them violently, nail them to a cross, beat them and whip them to the

point that their flesh was torn from their bodies. You are so evil that you'd do it right in the midst of your religious institutions and think nothing of it. And, if necessary, you'd chase them down from city to city so they could not escape your vitriol. You are as guilty as anyone who has ever shed the blood of an innocent man! You will NOT escape judgment for these things. (Matthew 23:29-36)

a) **“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets** who were before you.” Matthew 5:10-12 NKJV

1) *“For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, **in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.**”* Hebrews 2:10 NKJV

2) *“We must **through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.**”* Acts 14:22 NKJV

FINAL VERDICT

3. Y'shua Laments over Jerusalem

A. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

(1) You were not willing, so...

(a) ...your house is left to you desolate!

1. ""O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the **one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her!** How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, **but you were not willing!** See! **Your house is left to you desolate;** for I say to you, **you shall see Me no more** till you say, '**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**' "" Matthew 23:37-39 NKJV

B. Weighed and found wanting

(1) Read Daniel 5

(a) This is the back story...

1. Belshazzar the king is throwing a massive drinking party for a thousand of his leaders.
2. He orders his servants to bring the gold and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar took from the temple in Jerusalem. Why?
3. So he, his leaders, his wives, and his concubines could use them to drink from. This is a BAD idea!

4. As soon as he does, the king see fingers appear in space and they write a message on the wall of the king's palace.
5. Then the king's countenance sinks and his whole body trembles. Daniel is brought in to interpret the message. This is what it says:

(b) Performance Evaluation

1. ""And this is the inscription that was written: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. This is the interpretation of each word. MENE: **God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it;** TEKEL: **You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting;** PERES: **Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.**"" Daniel 5:25-28 NKJV
 - a) Your seat of authority is over; you have been evaluated as a leader and found inept; your leadership role will now pass on to someone else.

C. Y'shua Laments over Jerusalem

- (1) Y'shua's final evaluation of the religious leaders is the SAME! (Matthew 23:37-39)
 - (a) I wish the people of my own bloodline would recognize where they come from, repent of their past sins and come under my covering, but I know you won't!

1. So, as a result, you will be left by the wayside and I will find new people who will say, *“Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!”* (Ps. 118:26)
 - a) In other words...Your seat of authority is over; you have been evaluated as a leader and found inept; your leadership role will now pass on to someone else.
 - b) And this revelation certainly sealed their animosity as their replacements had already been identified when Y’shua entered Jerusalem! Authority was moving from the religious elite to the people (who already said...)!
 - 1) *“Then **the multitudes** who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: “Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**’ Hosanna in the highest!””* Matthew 21:9 NKJV

(2) Your house is left to you desolate

(a) You will not escape the judgment of God!

1. “But we know that the **judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things**. And do you think this, O man, **you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you**

will escape the judgment of God?" Romans 2:2-3

NKJV

- a) Woe to you hypocrites, you house is left to you desolate!
- (b) He will destroy the wicked men and assign His work to others who will produce fruit!
 - 1. "They said to Him, "**He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.**" Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: '**The stone which the builders rejected** Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes'? "**Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you** *[you house left desolate]* **and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.** And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.'" Matthew 21:41-44 NKJV
 - a) Y'shua laid the groundwork for the leaders being replaced in a message earlier that day!
- (c) Why are they losing their authority, the seat of Moses? Because they are teaching the doctrines and commandments of men as if they are law (the writings

of Moses)... Remember: *“For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for **he wrote about Me**. But **if you do not believe his writings**, how will you believe My words?”* John 5:46-47 NKJV

1. **Step 1:** “The whole vision has become to you like **the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one who is literate**, saying, **“Read this, please.”** And he says, **“I cannot, for it is sealed.”** Then the book is delivered to one who is illiterate, saying, **“Read this, please.”** And he says, **“I am not literate.”**” Isaiah 29:11-12 NKJV

- a) These religious leaders are like illiterate men who cannot even open the book (Moses’ writings) because it is sealed shut!
- b) The book will be taken from them and handed to someone who is literate. The book will be unsealed and new leaders will be able to read it.

2. **Step 2:** **“Hypocrites!** Well did Isaiah [29:13] prophesy about you, saying: ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. **And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.**’ ”” Matthew 15:7-9

- a) We divert from what is next in Isaiah 29:13 to read how it is quoted by Y'shua.
 - b) These illiterate men are hypocrites! They are wrongly applying the writings of Moses!
 - c) And instead they are teaching their own commands, as if they are God's commands!
 - d) It's all vanity!
3. **Step 3:** "Therefore, behold, I will again do a marvelous work Among this people, A marvelous work and a wonder; **For the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, And the understanding of their prudent men shall be hidden.**" **Woe to those** who **seek deep to hide their counsel far from the Lord,** And their works are in the dark; They say, "Who sees us?" and, "Who knows us?"" Isaiah 29:14-15 NKJV
- a) God will remove these "wise and understanding" men from from the "Seat of Moses."
 - b) These men have turned from seeking the Lord's counsel (via the writings of Moses) and have chosen instead to seek their own interpretation (the doctrines and commandments of men)! *"Woe to those..."*

4. **Step 4:** “In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book, And **the eyes of the blind shall see** out of obscurity and out of darkness. **The humble also shall increase their joy in the Lord**, And **the poor among men shall rejoice** In the Holy One of Israel.” Isaiah 29:18-19 NKJV

a) God will open the eyes of the humble (the multitudes) who will say, *“Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!”*

D. The Be Attitude!

(1) “Blessed are you...” NOT “Woe to you...”

(a) Eight right attitudes and applications to turn your hypocrititudes into beatitudes! *“The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do.”*

(Matthew 23:2-3) *“If you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”*

(John 5:46-47) Y’shua now sits in the seat of Moses; believe His words as He believed Moses’ words—
BECAUSE HE IS WRITING ABOUT YOU!

1. **His Words:** **““You are the salt of the earth;** but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. **“You are the light of the world.** A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. **Let your light so shine before men,** that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:13-16 NKJV
 - a) You are the salt of the earth...
 - b) You are the light of the world...
 - c) Let your light so shine...
 - d) Believe His words; He’s writing about you!
2. **His Words:** **“For I say to you, that unless **your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees,** you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:20 NKJV**
 - a) Your righteousness must exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, and the only way to to that is through Christ!
 - b) Believe His words; He’s writing about you!

3. **His Words:** “**Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth**, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but **lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:19-21 NKJV
- a) Don’t store your treasures as earthly possessions.
 - b) Store your treasure for the kingdom.
 - c) Believe His words; He’s writing about you!
4. **His Words:** “**No one can serve two masters**; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.” Matthew 6:24 NKJV
- a) Don’t be a servant of your flesh or what you possess because God can’t be your boss if your wealth is!
 - b) Believe His words; He’s writing about you!
5. **His Words:** “But **seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness**, and all these things shall be added to you.” Matthew 6:33 NKJV

- a) Seek the things of God and don't worry about your earthly needs, and while you prioritize God, your earthly needs will be met as well.
 - b) Believe His words; He's writing about you!
6. **His Words:** ""**Enter by the narrow gate;** for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. **Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life,** and there are few who find it."
Matthew 7:13-14 NKJV
- a) Choose the ways of God which are always the much harder choices.
 - b) Die to yourself instead of looking to satisfy every carnal desire.
 - c) Believe His words; He's writing about you!
7. **His Words:** ""Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, **but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.** Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; **depart**

from Me, you who practice lawlessness!” Matthew 7:21-23 NKJV

- a) Calling Him Lord while not obeying Him as Lord is the same as NOT calling Him Lord.
- b) Believe His words; He’s writing about you!

8. **His Words:** ““Therefore **whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them**, I will liken him to a wise man who **built his house on the rock**: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. “But **everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them**, will be like a foolish man **who built his house on the sand**: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”” Matthew 7:24-27 NKJV

- a) Blessed are those who build their houses on the Rock of Christ.
- b) Woe to those who build their house on hypocrisy.
- c) Believe His words; He’s writing about you!

Summary: RIGHT SEAT WRONG HEART

1. Moses' Seat

A. Abuse of Power

(1) Do what they instruct, but not do what they do.

(a) **The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat.**

B. Moses' Seat Explained

(1) Bookends!

(a) Y'shua addresses a large gathering along with His disciples

1. Prophetic Lightbulb: This is the other bookend of the Sermon on the Mount.

- a) Y'shua is about to address a large audience about the scribes and the Pharisees, in the presence of the scribes and the Pharisees.
- b) He is about to compare and contrast what He began to reveal about the kingdom of heaven in the Sermon on the Mount with the Seat of Moses (when it is handled incorrectly)!
- c) This teaching (or more accurately this rebuke) will close the book on His instructions. After this it is all about what's coming in the future and then all the events around His betrayal, the cross, His resurrection, and final commission!

2. The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. What does that mean?
- a) The "Seat of Moses" was a symbol of legitimate biblical legal authority conferred upon teachers of God's Law.
 - b) A "seat" is a place of authority similar to our modern use of the word "bench".
 - c) A judge is said to "occupy the bench," and the word bench may even be used as a substitute for the judge, as in "the ruling from the bench."
 - d) The teachers of the law and Pharisees were supposed to continue in the footsteps of Moses.
 - e) They were the interpreters and enforcers of the law in the same way, Moses sat and judged the people.
 - f) If someone wanted to know what Moses would say about something, he would consult an expert in the Law of Moses—a Pharisee or a teacher of the law, specifically a scribe (a Biblical Lawyer).
 - g) What Moses said was binding, so anyone who was in the position to tell people what Moses said was himself in a position of great authority.

- h) Hint: this is the position Y'shua is taking, while simultaneously removing the scribes and Pharisees from that position. They are NOT happy!
3. You must follow what they teach relative to the word of God
- a) However, you are NOT to copy what they do because their actions are not consistent with their words. They are in the "Right Seat Wrong Application" or "Right Seat Wrong Attitude" or better yet "Right Seat Wrong Beatitude"
 - 1) In other words, they will preach God's word but they don't practice God's word—"for they say, **and do not do."**
 - b) Exactly what Y'shua warned in the Sermon on the Mount (the other bookend). You must be better than this!
 - c) Be a doer of what you say, not just a sayer of what you say! Look at it, understand it, do it—be blessed. "Blessed are you..."
 - d) Faith without doing what your faith commands is no faith at all!
 - e) These scribes and Pharisees teach their own things from the seat of Moses (the doctrines and

commandments of men) instead of teaching what Moses taught!

4. They place impossible man-made burdens on the people, as the required mechanism to become acceptable to God; but they don't even try to help the people, nor do they require the same burdens of themselves. Again the opposite end of Y'shua's teachings!
5. They make everything they do for God a public show
 - a) ...all their spiritual practices
 - b) ...all their prayers
 - c) ...even the clothes they wear are to draw attention to themselves.
 - d) They grab the front row at every event in the synagogues. They love all the attention.
 - e) And everywhere they go they want people to recognize them as THE 'Rabbi.'
 - f) They do the exact opposite of doing things in secret, as taught in the Sermon on the Mount.
6. You have ONE Rabbi, ONE Father, ONE Teacher
 - a) Don't demand to be called Rabbi; there is One is Teacher, the Christ, and you are all equals under Christ.

- b) Do not insist you be called father; there is One Father in heaven.
 - c) Do not require you be the teacher; there is One Teacher, the Christ.
 - 1) Does it mean that these titles are wrong unto themselves? No!
 - 2) It is the insistence that one be THE Rabbi, Father, Teacher, drawing attention to oneself, as opposed to pointing to the Christ who points to the Father.
 - d) There is no authority structure that does not have Christ on top, who always pointed to His Father in heaven!
 - e) The order is clear! The head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.
 - f) Plus, the teacher position is one that should be feared!
7. Y'shua again reminds them of what a true servant looks like: great ones will serve and exalted ones will be humble—unlike these men who wish to sit in Moses' seat, who do the exact opposite!

- a) Remember when the mother of James and John asked Y'shua to give them positions of authority! He said great ones serve and those who are out front should act as if they are the slaves to all whom they lead.
- b) At the Last Supper (His final preparation to become the Passover Lamb), and knowing the time had come for His betrayal and death, He got down on His knees and washed the feet of those He led!
- c) Why?
 - 1) This pure act of service and humility was an example of how we should lead.
 - 2) Those in Moses' seat should exercise their authority by serving, not demanding they be called Rabbi, Father, Teacher.
 - 3) They should serve rather than demand others serve them.
 - 4) They should DO, not just instruct others to DO, whilst they DON'T!
 - 5) If you know these things, "Blessed are you..."
- d) What is the outcome of going to the place of serving rather than being served, to give your life for others?

- 1) You go low and God will exalt you!
- 2) You go high and God will bring you down!

C. **Timeline Timeout!**

(1) Let's review recent events so we can see where we are at this moment!

- (a) Entry into Jerusalem (the Triumphal Entry)
- (b) That same day in the temple...overturned the tables
- (c) The Next day—in the temple
 1. He claims His authority (Matthew 21:23-27)
 2. Teaches about obedience to the Father in *The Parable of Two Sons* (Matthew 21:28-32)
 3. Teaches about rejecting the son in *The Parable of the Wicked Vinedressers* (Matthew 21:33-46)
 4. He Teaches about rejecting the wedding invitation in *The Parable of the Wedding Feast* (Matthew 22:1-14)
 5. Is questioned by the Pharisees, Herodians, Sadducees, and Scribes—each being left silent (Matthew 22:15-40)
 6. And then He has a question of His own for the religious leaders. This puts an end to their public enquiries once and for all. (Matthew 22:41-46)
 7. And now from that same spot in the Temple...

- a) He preaches His magnum opus against hypocrisy.
(Matthew 23:1-39)
- b) THIS IS WHERE WE ARE AT THIS MOMENT!
- 8. Then He leaves the Temple...(Matthew 24:1)
Completes the Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24-25)

D. Let's reset the stage...

- (1) All hypocrisy will be exposed!
 - (a) Beware the leaven of the Pharisees which is hypocrisy
 - 1. There is nothing that man can try to cover up that will not be exposed.
 - 2. Everything you hide will be made known!
 - (b) God's word demands it!
 - 1. All things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.
 - 2. That is why if you don't believe Moses writings, or feel you can sit in Moses's seat without really using Moses' words, you will be exposed!

E. If you actually believed Moses, you would believe Y'shua...

- (1) You would recognize the Correct Authority Structure
 - (a) What the seat of Moses SHOULD look like!
 - 1. Y'shua had healed the lame man at the pool of Bethesda.

2. The religious leaders did not like that He did it on the Sabbath! (Would the writings of Moses support this ruling?) No!
 3. Y'shua identified Himself as the Son of God ("I work for My Father...")
 4. The real problem for the religious elite is that they feel He has usurped the "seat of Moses."
 5. Note to the Hypocrites: **He is the seat of Moses!**
- (b) They wanted to Kill Him because He said... *"My Father has been working until now, and I have been working."*
1. The Son is not making decisions on His own.
 2. He was given authority to do so by the Father
 3. The Father as committed all judgment to the Son.
 4. He now sits in the Seat of Moses!
- (c) The Father has given Y'shua authority to execute judgment, because He sits in the seat of Moses.
1. Okay you scribes and Pharisees. Let Me tell you how this authority structure works.
 2. If you hear My words and believe, you shall not come under judgment.
 3. If you hear (and obey) the voice of the Son of God; you will live.

4. The Father has granted Him the authority to execute judgment because He is the Son of Man.
 5. He does not do any of this by Himself.
 6. He hears, He judges; and His judgment is righteous, because He does not seek His own will but the will of His Father who sent Him.
 7. That is how the seat of Moses operates correctly!
- (d) A better witness than John the Baptist
1. John was a great forerunner who announced He was hear!
 2. But John was still just a man and His testimony is NOT from man.
 3. His testimony is directly from God and the evidence is that all the work God gave Him to complete, and the fact that He is doing it!
 4. This work is empowered by God and proves Y'shua is the One sitting in the place of authority!
- (e) You search the Scriptures but you completely miss that all the Scriptures point to Me!
1. If you had the love of God in you, you would see the truth, but you don't. Ouch!
 2. You are so busy honoring one another that you completely overlooked that it was God you should be

honoring— that is why you insist on all the titles:
Rabbi, Father, Teacher

3. You want all the authority and powers that comes with sitting in Moses' Seat, and you claim that you are using the Torah of Moses as proof of your position...
4. But, it was the very words of Moses that point towards Y'shua as the Christ—everything He wrote was about Him!
5. So the reality is this: You don't actually believe Moses, because if you did, you would see that Y'shua is the One sitting in Moses' seat!
6. Rather, you are just hypocrites, living the exact opposite way He taught you to live when He explained the kingdom of heaven in the Sermon on the Mount!

Summary: ASSAULT ON HYPOCRISY

2. The Eight Woes of the Scribes and Pharisees

A. But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!

- (1) The Hypocrasitudes (Yes! Another word I made up!)
 - (a) Hypocrisy at its worst!
- (2) Definitions

(a) Hypocratises

1. ...the woes bestowed upon those living in hypocrisy and sanctimony—those who say and do not do, while judging others who do the same.

- a) **Woes:** misery, sorrow, distress, wretchedness, sadness, unhappiness, heartache, despondency, desolation, despair, dejection, depression, gloom, adversity, misfortune, disaster, affliction, suffering, hardship, pain, agony, grief, anguish, torment; trouble, difficulty, tribulation, burden, misfortune, mishap, failure, disaster, tragedy.

(b) Beatitudes

1. ...the blessings bestowed upon those whose hearts are fixed on the kingdom of heaven—those who know what the kingdom of heaven is like and endeavor to live as such.

- a) **Blessings:** supreme blessedness, grace, bliss, ecstasy, exaltation, supreme happiness, heavenly joy, divine rapture, saintliness.

(c) Attitudes

1. ...the way you approach God's word and His authority structure. You can be authentic and live in

integrity, or you can be self-centered making it about your own power and authority.

- a) **Attitude:** point of view, view, viewpoint, vantage point, frame of mind, way of thinking, way of looking at things, school of thought, perspective, reaction, stance, standpoint, position, inclination, orientation, approach, opinion, ideas, belief, convictions, feelings, sentiments, persuasion, thoughts, thinking, interpretation.

(d) Applications

- 1. ...what happens when your attitude encounters God's word. Who really sits in the Seat of Moses? Do you have a beatitude or hypocrititude?

- a) **Application:** implementation, use, exercise, employment, administration, utilization, practice, exertion, execution, enactment, carrying out, putting into operation or practice.

B. Hypocrititudes vs. Beattitudes

(1) The Eight Woes of the Scribes and Pharisees

- (a) But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!

- 1. You misrepresent the kingdom of heaven because you don't understand it yourself and therefore you cause others to be confused about it!

- a) You cannot manifest Christ in you because you will not let the Spirit of God dominate your human spirit.
- 2. You extract every last resource from widows, instead of comforting them in their loss, and you use elaborate prayers as an act to make people believe you are authentic. There is more punishment for your type of hypocrite than any other.
 - a) You use others suffering for self-aggrandizement instead of exercising empathy and support.
- 3. You go all over to evangelize, but you are really only using your influence to enrich yourselves with money and power. You wish to convert people into becoming your followers and when they follow you they become like you and even worse!
 - a) Gathering your own followers!
- 4. You are really just blind men leading the blind. You are completely hung up on material things instead of true worship. You give more value to objects of wealth and care more deeply about appearances, especially how sharing your stuff makes you look, than you do for holiness and godliness, that which God truly values. Only a fool gives precedence to

things which will perish and only a man filled with God's righteousness makes heavenly things a priority and are thus satisfied no matter what worldly things they possess.

a) Remember: *"Therefore do not worry, ...But seek first the kingdom ..."*

5. You are hyper-concerned about the minute details of the law instead of seeing how God's laws reflect God's heart. God is infinitely more concerned with justice, mercy and faith, than your obsession with using His commands, as if completing a checklist will make you more pleasing to God. Sure, every one of God's laws are important, but they lose their meaning if you dismiss God's true intent, in lieu of simply checking things off on a to-do list.

a) Remember: *"I desire mercy and not sacrifice."*

6. You are so concerned for how you look on the outside that you have completely lost touch with what is really going on in your heart. You prioritize every activity that will polish your look, and your obsession with appearance fuels your willingness to do anything and everything to bolster your self-interest and status. In reality, if you focused on truly

giving your heart to God, your outer beauty would have appeared naturally.

a) Remember: “...*man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.*”

7. You are so consumed with how things appear when others see you that you have absolutely no inner peace. Your obsession with looking like an obedient child of God in the eyes of others has such a grip on you that you can't even recognize your rebellion, and that you are literally dead on the inside. If you just focused on a heart of obedience, your inner turmoil would fade into peaceful contentment.

a) Remember: “*godliness with contentment...live peaceably with all men.*”

8. ***Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness...*** You are so oblivious to who you are on the inside that you are happy to admit you come from those who killed, buried and celebrated the death of God's prophets and the righteous men. You can't even recognize you have the same heart and would have done the same thing. I know this because you did it to John the Baptist and you have responded to Me that same way! You are just as guilty now as

they were then; every choice you make today testifies against you. Your corruption runs so deep; it's as if the devil is consuming you from the inside out! ***Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you...*** If I sent you modern-day prophets, men guided by God, and true biblical law experts, right now, you'd abuse, criticize, censure, condemn, attack and even kill some of them. You'd persecute them violently, nail them to a cross, beat them and whip them to the point that their flesh was torn from their bodies. You are so evil that you'd do it right in the midst of your religious institutions and think nothing of it. And, if necessary, you'd chase them down from city to city so they could not escape your vitriol. You are as guilty as anyone who has ever shed the blood of an innocent man! You will NOT escape judgment for these things.

a) Remember: *"perfect through sufferings; through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."*

Summary: FINAL VERDICT

3. Y'shua Laments over Jerusalem

A. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

(1) You were not willing, so...

- (a) ...your house is left to you desolate!

B. Weighed and found wanting

(1) Performance Evaluation

- (a) Your seat of authority is over; you have been evaluated as a leader and found inept; your leadership role will now pass on to someone else?

1. Read Daniel 5 (this is the back story)

- a) Belshazzar the king is throwing a massive drinking party for a thousand of his leaders.
- b) He orders his servants to bring the gold and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar took from the temple in Jerusalem. Why?
- c) So he, his leaders, his wives, and his concubines could use them to drink from. This is a BAD idea!
- d) As soon as he does, the king sees fingers appear in space and they write a message on the wall of the king's palace.
- e) Then the king's countenance sinks and his whole body trembles.
- f) Daniel is brought in to interpret the message.
- g) This is what it means: Your seat of authority is over; you have been evaluated as a leader and found

inept; your leadership role will now pass on to someone else.

C. Y'shua Laments over Jerusalem

(1) Y'shua's final evaluation of the religious leaders is the SAME!

(a) I wish the people of my own bloodline would recognize where they come from, repent of their past sins and come under my covering, but I know you won't!

1. So, as a result, you will be left by the wayside and I will find new people who will say, "*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!*" (Ps. 118:26)

a) In other words...Your seat of authority is over; you have been evaluated as a leader and found inept; your leadership role will now pass on to someone else.

b) And this revelation certainly sealed their animosity as their replacements had already been identified when Y'shua entered Jerusalem! Authority was moving from the religious elite to the people!

(2) Your house is left to you desolate

(a) You will not escape the judgment of God!

1. Woe to you hypocrites, your house is left to you desolate!

(b) He will destroy the wicked men and assign His work to others who will produce fruit!

1. Y'shua laid the groundwork for the leaders being replaced in a message earlier that day!

(c) Why are they losing their authority, the seat of Moses? Because they are teaching the doctrines and commandments of men as if they are law (the writings of Moses)... Remember: *"For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for **he wrote about Me**. But **if you do not believe his writings**, how will you believe My words?"*

1. **Step 1:** These religious leaders are like illiterate men who cannot even open the book (Moses' writings) because it is sealed shut!

a) The book will be taken from them and handed to someone who is literate. The book will be unsealed and new leaders will be able to read it.

2. **Step 2:** We divert from what is next in Isaiah 29:13 to read how it is quoted by Y'shua.

a) These illiterate men are hypocrites! They are wrongly applying the writings of Moses!

b) And instead they are teaching their own commands, as if they are God's commands!

- c) It's all vanity!
- 3. **Step 3:** God will remove these “wise and understanding” men from from the “Seat of Moses.”
 - a) These men have turned from seeking the Lord’s counsel (via the writings of Moses) and have chosen instead to seek their own interpretation (the doctrines and commandments of men)! “*Woe to those...*”
- 4. **Step 4:** God will open the eyes of the humble (the multitudes) who will say, “*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!*”

D. The Be Attitude!

- (1) “Blessed are you...” NOT “Woe to you...”
 - (a) Eight right attitudes and applications to turn your hypocrititudes into beatitudes! “*The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do.*” “*If you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?*” Y’shua now sits in the seat of Moses; believe His words as He believed Moses’ words—BECAUSE HE IS WRITING ABOUT YOU!

1. **His Words:**

- a) You are the salt of the earth...
- b) You are the light of the world...
- c) Let your light so shine...
- d) Believe His words; He's writing about you!

2. **His Words:**

- a) Your righteousness must exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, and the only way to to that is through Christ!
- b) Believe His words; He's writing about you!

3. **His Words:**

- a) Don't store your treasures as earthly possessions.
- b) Store your treasure for the kingdom.
- c) Believe His words; He's writing about you!

4. **His Words:**

- a) Don't be a servant of your flesh or what you possess because God can't be your boss if your wealth is!
- b) Believe His words; He's writing about you!

5. **His Words:**

- a) Seek the things of God and don't worry about your earthly needs, and while you prioritize God, your earthly needs will be met as well.

b) Believe His words; He's writing about you!

6. **His Words:**

a) Choose the ways of God which are always the much harder choices.

b) Die to yourself instead of looking to satisfy every carnal desire.

c) Believe His words; He's writing about you!

7. **His Words:**

a) Calling Him Lord while not obeying Him as Lord is the same as NOT calling Him Lord.

b) Believe His words; He's writing about you!

8. **His Words:**

a) Blessed are those who build their houses on the Rock of Christ.

b) Woe to those who build their house on hypocrisy.

c) Believe His words; He's writing about you!

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. What does it mean that "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat?" (Hint: see Exodus 18:13)

A. Read Matthew 23:1-12 and explain all that the religious leaders were doing that Y'shua was exposing.

- B. How is the Sermon on the Mount that begins in Matthew 5:1-3 like this rebuke of the religious leaders that begins in Matthew 23:1-2?
- C. Why actually might these two sermons be polar opposites? (See: Matthew 5:19-20; James 1:22-25; James 2:18-26; Help: Matthew 15:7-9)

2. Read Matthew 23:1-12 again...

- A. Use the following passages to support Y'shua's message in a short essay. (See: I John 5:3; Matthew 11:28-30; 6:3-18; I Corinthians 11:3; James 3:1; Mark 10:42-45; John 13:1-17; Philippians 2:5-11; I Peter 5:6; Isaiah 14:12-15)

3. Read John 5:16-47...

- A. How does this narrative correct how the religious leaders are handling the "Seat of Moses" as revealed in Matthew 23:1-12?
- B. How does this passage instruct you on the importance of believing and understanding Moses' words?

4. Read Matthew 23:13-36...

- A. Extract the eight woes that Y'shua used to warn the scribes and Pharisees.
- B. Compare each woe in order to each of the eight blessings in the beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-12. (Note: consider verses 10-12 one blessing for those being persecuted.)

5. Read Matthew 23:37-39...

- A. How is the destination of these religious leaders similar to Belshazzar's in Daniel 5:25-28?
- B. How is Matthew 21:9 a fulfillment of Matthew 23:39?

6. Describe the eight right attitudes and applications to turn your hypocrititudes into beatitudes!

- A. Hypocrititudes: the woes bestowed upon those living in hypocrisy and sanctimony—those who say and do not do, while judging other who do the same.
- B. Beatitudes: the blessings bestowed upon those whose hearts are fixed on the kingdom of heaven—those who know what the kingdom of heaven is like and endeavor to live as such.
- C. Scriptures: Matthew 5:13-16; 5:20; 6:19-21; 6:24; 6:33; 7:13-14; 7:21-23; 7:24-27)