

## MARKS OF A GLUTTONOUS PHARISEE

### Matthew 23:1-10

*Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to His disciples, saying, “The scribes and Pharisees have seated themselves in Moses’ chair of authority as teachers of the Law; so practice and observe everything they tell you, but do not do as they do; for they preach things, but don’t practice them. The scribes and Pharisees tie up heavy loads that are hard to bear and place them on men’s shoulders, but they themselves will not lift a finger to make them lighter. They do all their deeds to be seen by men; for they make their phylacteries (tefillin) wide to make them more conspicuous and make their tassels long.*

*<sup>6</sup> They love the place of distinction and honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues, those on the platform near the scrolls of the Law, facing the congregation, and to be greeted with respect in the market places and public forums, and to have people call them Rabbi. But do not be called Rabbi (Teacher); for One is your Teacher, and you are all equally brothers.*

*<sup>9</sup> Do not call anyone on earth who guides you spiritually, your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. <sup>10</sup> Do not let yourselves be called leaders or teachers; for One is your Leader (Teacher), the Christ. But the greatest among you will be your servant. Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be raised to honor.*

It’s virtually impossible to cure a Pharisee: they don’t want it, and aren’t willing to REPENT.

They aren’t SICK – or so they think –  
they THINK they’re HEALTHIER than YOU!

Matthew 9:12-13

*“...for I did not come to call to repentance the self-proclaimed righteous who see no need to change, but sinners, those who recognize their sin and actively seek forgiveness.”*

#### **A PHARISEE SHOWS a LACK of FORGIVENESS and MERCY (v. 4-5)**

*<sup>4</sup> The scribes and Pharisees tie up heavy loads that are hard to bear and place them on men’s shoulders, but they themselves will not lift a finger to make them lighter. They do all their deeds to be seen by men; for they make their phylacteries (tefillin) wide to make them more conspicuous and make their tassels long.*

MERCY and RESTORATION VANISH –  
REPLACED with...  
JUDGMENTS and WARNINGS

Our God is the Lord of the 2<sup>nd</sup> CHANCE

Our FELLOWSHIPS are CHURCHES of the 1<sup>st</sup> STRIKE!

How do you get the 2<sup>nd</sup> chance? Ask for it – with REPENTANCE, ANYTHING is POSSIBLE!

Romans 8:28-31

*“...For those whom He foreknew and loved and chose beforehand, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son...and those whom He predestined, He also called; and those whom He called, He also justified, **declared free of the guilt of sin**; and those whom He justified, He also glorified, raising them to a heavenly dignity. What then shall we say to all these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?*

**A PHARISEE CHOOSES PREFERENCE over PRINCIPLE (v. 6)**

*6 They love the place of distinction and honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues, those on the platform near the scrolls of the Law, facing the congregation, and to be greeted with respect in the market places and public forums, and to have people call them Rabbi.*

A Pharisee doesn't understand the difference between biblical principles and personal preferences. Why? Because he makes up the rules!

***Biblical Principles:***

Word of God is accurate and true  
Truthful  
Worship  
Risk in trust  
Inside man  
Heart – who I trust  
Obedience in all things

***Personal Preferences:***

NT over OT  
Nice  
Contemporary or Traditional  
Trust in safety  
Outside appearance  
Head, hands – what I think or do  
Situational obedience

**A PHARISEE has an UNTEACHABLE SPIRIT (v. 7)**

*Do not be called Rabbi (Teacher); for One is your Teacher, and you are all equally brothers.*

YOU do not learn anything on your own –  
NO ONE shows you anything, teaches you anything –  
It is the SPIRIT who TEACHES, who REVEALS

**CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TEACHABLE SPIRIT:**

- You're aware of the limitations of your own knowledge and abilities
- You admit limitation, inability, and ignorance to others who can teach and help
- You regularly ask for help, instruction, guidance, and advice (before the event, not after disaster strikes)
- You learn from anyone and everyone you can
- You listen to others carefully and patiently with a desire to learn from everyone
- You're prepared to move out of your comfort zone, try something different, make mistakes, look stupid, answer wrongly, etc.
- You don't give up when you fail at something, but seek help, and try again and again until you get it right
- You're willing to change your views and practices when convincing evidence is presented to you, even if it means admitting you were wrong

Luke 2:46-47

*All who heard Him were amazed by His intelligence and His understanding and His answers.*