



How to Trust God Through Tough Times - 7
Trusting God Through Times of Hypocrisy
North Lake Presbyterian Church
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“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to. **15** “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and then you make that convert twice as much a child of hell as you are. **23** “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. **25** “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. **27** “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. **29** “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You build tombs for the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous.
 Matthew 23:13-15, 23, 25, 27, 29

The Word “Hypocrisy” – Isaiah 29:13-14

1. Giving

2 “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.
 Matthew 6:2

2. Praying

“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.
 Matthew 6:5

The practice of prayer had deteriorated in four areas

- Prayer had become an empty, formal, ritual
- Prayers were long and wordy
- Prayers were filled with repetitions and meaningless clichés
- Praying became a cause for pride

6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. **7** And when you pray, do not keep on babbling

like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.
 Matthew 6:6-7

3. Fasting

16 “When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. Matthew 6:16

17 But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, **18** so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. Matthew 6:17-18

4. Embracing Tradition

Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked, **2** “Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don’t wash their hands before they eat!”
 Matthew 15:1-2

How to Confront Hypocrisy

1. Expose It
2. Resist It
3. Stay At It – Ephesians 4:17-25 MSG

Questions for Groups and Classes

Matthew 23:1-30, *The Seven Woes*

1. Growing up, what “hot buttons” did you push to get your parents mad?
2. Make a list of the seven charges Jesus makes against the Pharisees and teachers of the Law (Matthew 23: verses 13-32).
3. how do each of these affect the common people?
4. How had the religious leaders corrupted the practice of evangelism (vs. 13-15), Of oath-taking (vs. 16-22), Of tithing (vs. 23-24)?
5. How can we avoid making it hard for others to grow spiritually?
6. What about today’s church do you lament over (as Jesus did over Jerusalem?)
7. From reading this passage, what should today’s leaders and pastors

TRUSTING GOD IN LIFE'S CHANGES

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be especially mindful of?

8. How have you seen the power of the pulpit abused?

