

Gospel of Matthew “Humbled and Exalted”
Matthew 23:1-12
March 17, 2024

Matthew 23:1-12

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, 2 “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, 3 so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice. 4 They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. 5 They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, 6 and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues 7 and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others. 8 But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers. 9 And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. 10 Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ. 11 The greatest among you shall be your servant. 12 Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

James 1:23-24

23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.

People don't make God's Word untrue.

There is a way to teach and instruct that is restful to our souls.

The spiritual disease of “greatnessism.”

Pride asks, *“What do I need? What do I have? Am getting what I deserve? Am I becoming who I want to be?”*

Matthew 23:8-10

8 But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers. 9 And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. 10 Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ.

Matthew 18:3

3 “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Humility is a deciding factor between heaven and hell.

Matthew 23:12

12 Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

Humility is not thinking less of yourself but it is a self forgetfulness.

Humility is a byproduct.

Matthew 23:11

11 The greatest among you shall be your servant.

Humility is achieved by marveling at the gospel of grace.

Grow Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you through His Word during our Sunday gathering?
- Why is the praise of others enticing? When have you done something (or not done something) to be liked or esteemed?
- How can our successes and accomplishments become good soil for pride?
- Jesus tells us that religious activity can become pride generating. How have you seen this true in your life?
- How might talking directly about people and activities that appear prideful backfire into forming pride in us?
- Humility seems critically connected to the gospel. Describe this crucial connection?
- If humility is a byproduct of something else then what are we focusing our attention on?
- How is humility freeing?
- What is one way your Grow Group can encourage you and help you apply this passage to your life this week?