

MATTHEW

May 14, 2023

Matthew 23:23-36

READ

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QUESTIONS for REFLECTION

1. You have likely heard of the practice of tithing (v. 23); but how familiar are you with it? Do a little research on the topic (e.g., Bible app, concordance, etc.). Summarize the practice. Did anything about your research surprise you?

2. How were the scribes & Pharisees practicing tithing?

What is Jesus' "beef" with their practices? Why is it hypocrisy?

3. What comes to mind when you hear the word . . .

- "justice"?
- "mercy"?
- "faithfulness" or "faith" (KJV)?

What makes these the weightier provisions of the law? What are the consequences when they are neglected?

4. We, like the scribes & Pharisees, tend to be preoccupied with outward appearances (vv. 25-28). What is God's primary area of interest (1 Samuel 16:7)? Why is this the case (c.f.,

Matthew 15:18-19; Romans 12:2)?

5. Identify the hypocrisy of the scribes & Pharisees in vv. 29-33.

Identify the hardness in Jesus' words. How does this strike you?

6. How will the scribes & Pharisees (and all those represented by Jerusalem, v. 37) live up to their spiritual legacy (vv. 34-35)? How will they (soon) ultimately express this?

What will be their fate?

7. Where do you find yourself most like the scribes & Pharisees (vv. 13-33)?

PERSONAL RESPONSE

I will prioritize what is of most importance to the Lord this week by . . .

I will pursue "that which is good and acceptable and perfect" this week by . . .