



**Text:** Matthew 23

**Topic:** Religion, Hypocrisy

**Big Idea of the Message:** The danger of spiritual deception is real, even for those who are sincere in their religious convictions; therefore, we must submit to God's Word and look to the mercy of Christ in the gospel.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. Even for unbelievers, hypocrisy is despised. Why do you think this is? Define hypocrisy.
3. Why is it not enough simply to be sincere in what you believe? How does this passage serve as a warning in this regard?
4. Compare Matthew 23 to the teaching about faith and works in James 2:14-26 and the necessity of righteousness in 1 John 3:4-10.
5. What other sins does pride lead to? How can you fight against a proud heart? Can you think of any relevant biblical passages?
6. If purity begins in the heart, then what should our fight against sin look like?
7. In what ways do you see yourself in Jesus' indictment of the Pharisees? Be specific.