

The Legalists of Jesus' Day

Lesson 6 — Student Guide

Prepare for class: Read Matthew 23

Lesson Goal

The goal of this lesson is to assure students of their salvation as a gift from God and to answer the following question: **What can we learn from Jesus' reaction to the legalists of his day?**

Think

Evaluate

1. Who are the characters in this story?
2. What are the objects in this story?
3. Where did this story happen?
4. When did this story happen?
5. What is the problem?
6. What events occurred in this story?
7. Is the problem solved?

Learn

8. What is the main theme of this lesson?
9. What sin does this lesson teach us to confess?
10. Where do you see the love of God in this lesson?
11. What does God teach us to do in this lesson?

Lead

12. What would be a good situation in which to share this message?

Additional questions

13. What is the meaning of "You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel?"
14. In what sense were the Pharisees white-washed tombs?
15. In what sense were the Pharisees serpents and the offspring of vipers?
16. What was Jesus' overall condemnation of the Pharisees?

17. Verse 31 says, “But woe to you, experts in the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven right in front of people’s faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor do you permit those who are trying to enter to do so.” What does this mean?
18. Verse 23 says, “Woe to you, experts in the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give ten percent of your mint, dill, and cumin, but you have neglected the more important matters of the law: justice, mercy, and faithfulness. You should have done these things and not failed to do the other things.” What does this mean?

Lesson wrap-up

What can we learn from Jesus’ reaction to the legalists of his day?