

# Leadership Responsibilities

## *Christ Rebukes Teachers of the Law*

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# What We Will Learn

- Christ rebukes teachers of the law
- Tells disciples and other people
  - Obey the teachers of the law
  - But do not follow their living
- Rebukes teachers and Pharisees
- For living in hypocrisy
- And misleading people that look up to them
- Matthew 23

# Teachers of the Law

- Educated in the Law of Moses
- And Scriptures (writings of the prophets)
- Passed through generations
- Pharisee and Sadducees
  - Both are teachers of the law and scripture
  - Differ in some interpretations
  - Pharisees believe in resurrection
  - Sadducees do not believe in resurrection
- Acts 23:7–9

## Acts 23 (NIV)

7 When he said this, a dispute broke out between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided.

8 (The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, and that there are neither angels nor spirits, but the Pharisees believe all these things.)

## Acts 23 (NIV)

9 There was a great uproar, and some of the teachers of the law who were Pharisees stood up and argued vigorously. “We find nothing wrong with this man,” they said. “What if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?”

# Teachers of the Law

## Role in Society

- Leaders of society
- Teach and interpret the law and scripture
- Make rulings based on the interpretation
- Recognized as having Moses' authority
- In charge of law enforcement
- Acts 4:1–3

## Acts 4 (NIV)

1 The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people.

2 They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead.

## **Acts 4 (NIV)**

3 They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day.



# Christ's Message Regarding Teachers of the Law

- To the crowds and his disciples
- Teachers of the law have authority
- Represent the authority of Moses
- Follow and obey their teaching
- But do not follow their living
- They do not live according to their teaching
- Matthew 23:1–3

## Matthew 23 (NIV)

1 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples:

2 “The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat.

3 So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach.

- Note three components of Christ’s message

# Christ's Summary of the Teachers' Sin

- They do not practice what they preach
- They interpret the law and scriptures
- Often heavy-handed
- But lack effort to obey their own teaching
- Everything they do is a display
- To win honor and respect from people
- Matthew 23:4–7

## Matthew 23 (NIV)

4 They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.

5 "Everything they do is done for people to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long;

*Phylacteries: Two small, black, leather cubes containing a piece of parchment inscribed with Deut. 6:4–9, Deut. 11:13–21, and Ex. 13:1–16. One is attached with straps to the left arm and the other to the forehead during weekday morning prayers by Orthodox and Conservative Jewish men*

## Matthew 23 (NIV)

6 they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues;

7 they love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to be called 'Rabbi' by others.

# Christ Rebukes Teachers of the Law

- You mislead followers, therefore shutting them out of the kingdom of heaven
- Matthew 23:13

13 “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.

# Christ's Rebuke of Teachers of the Law cont'd

- You make great effort to win converts but mislead them after converting them
- You respect earthly wealth in the temple but forget what the temple represents
- You focus on traditional aspects of religion but forget its purpose: justice, mercy, and faithfulness

# Christ's Rebuke of Teachers of the Law cont'd

- You put up outward appearance of righteousness but are full of hypocrisy and wickedness inside
  - Example with dishes and cups
  - Whitewashed tombs
- Persecute and murder prophets and righteous people and turn around to decorate their graves



# Responsibilities of Leadership

- Provide instructions
  - Verbal or written
  - Accordance to authority you represent
- Live according to your instruction
  - Practice what you teach
- Christ rebuked teachers of the law and Pharisees for not living according to their instruction

# Interaction with Leadership

- Listen to leadership
- Obey their instructions
- Respect and honor them
- Unconditional
- Christ did not question the validity of instructions given by teachers of the law and Pharisees
- He noted they represent Moses' authority

# Interaction with Leadership cont'd

- Do they practice their teaching?
- If yes, then follow their examples
- If no, then don't follow their living
- Requires judgment about how their living relates to their teaching

# What We Learned

- Leadership responsibility
  - Give instructions according to the authority
  - Live according to its instructions
- Interactions with leadership
  - Respect authority of leadership
  - Listen to and obey leadership instructions
  - If leader obeys their instructions, then follow
  - If they don't, then don't follow