Lesson 28

Hypocrisy and Cure | Matthew 23

START MEETING

- Our sinful pride causes us to deceive ourselves and others about who we really are. God knows what is going on inside of us. He is not fooled by how we act, what we say, or how others perceive us. As humans, we long to be fully known and deeply understood. And yet, the fact that God knows the deepest and most hidden things about us rattles us a bit.
- Do you thrive on the approval of others? Do you say one thing and do something else? Do you care more about yourself than others?

READ AND DISCUSS BIBLE

1. What was the seat of Moses in Matthew 23:1? Given Jesus' remarks about the Pharisees in Matthew 21 and 22, what is surprising about his remarks in Matthew 23:3?

2. There are two kinds of hypocrisy from Matthew 23 that involve some contradictions: hypocrisy toward others and hypocrisy toward self. Make a list of the charges Jesus makes against the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law in these two categories (Matthew 23:13-32).

MATTHEW: THE DISCIPLEMAKER MANUAL

Sermon Series Bible Study

PASSAGE FOCUS

Matthew Chapter 23

Jesus points out the hypocrisy in the religious leaders; we are all capable of hypocrisy, but the more important thing is knowing God's cure.

STUDY GUIDE

LISTEN

Listen to this passage's sermon before you begin the study. If you missed it, you can watch the recording on the CPC Website or Youtube Channel.

REFLECT

Take some time to read through the passage and reflect on the questions.

SHARE

Answer the questions and share with your Life Group.

3.	How are the disciples to avoid falling into hypocrisy? What is God's cure for hypocrisy? Why would it be important that the disciples not allow themselves to be called "Rabbi"?	1.
4.	Be a Servant; compare the path to greatness followed by the	
	Pharisees with that taught by Jesus (Matthew 23:5-12)	
CLOSE MEETING		
•	Where does Jesus catch your attention in this passage? What practices touch close to home in your life? How can you avoid "talking the talk" but not "walking the walk"?	
•	From reading today's passage, what should today's teachers and pastors be especially mindful of?	
Reference: 1. Bible Study Fellowship notes on Matthew 2. Serendipity Bible, New International Version		