



SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

Sermon: **Matthew 23:23-24**

Date: **March 6, 2022**

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the teaching and bible passage this week?
2. Jesus refers to the scribes and Pharisees as *hypocrites* in verse 23 and several other times throughout this chapter of Scripture. How would you define this word biblically? What does it mean to be a hypocrite?
3. Explain why Jesus points out that the scribes and Pharisees tithed “mint and dill and cumin,” (v. 23). What was wrong with this behaviour? Why did Jesus take issue with it?
4. What are some modern examples of ways that Christians seek to go above and beyond the commands of Scripture? What are some ways that we might be tempted to make too much of a lesser matter at the expense of a weightier matter?
5. Jesus points out that these religious rulers focus on minute rituals at the expense of the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness (v. 23). Give a definition of each of these terms.
6. Compare biblical justice with secular ideas/definitions of justice. How was perfect justice exemplified on the cross?
7. Explain verse 24. How would you respond to someone who thinks that Jesus is being unkind or too harsh in his humorous rebuke of the Pharisees in this verse?
8. It’s easy to read a text like this and immediately think of others to whom it might apply, but we must first apply it to our own hearts (see Matthew 7:3-5). How can we seek to apply this text to our own hearts so that we can root out hypocrisy and man-pleasing from our own lives?