

False Spiritual Leaders, Part 4

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 23.

B. The righteous man of God is held in great esteem. (Philippians 2, 1 Timothy 5:17, Hebrews 13)

C. By contrast false spiritual leaders are seriously damned..

D. Unbelief is the result of false spiritual leadership.

E. Jesus places divine judgment on the religious leaders through seven curses because they were false spiritual leaders.

II. False spiritual leaders are condemned for exclusion.

III. False spiritual leaders are condemned for perversion.

IV. False spiritual leaders are cursed for subversion.

A. They lived under the illusion that they were leaders. (Romans 2, Matthew 15:14)

B. They were liars, but they developed a system by which they could lie by impunity. We must keep our word to God and to men. (Matthew 5, Psalm 50:15, 56:12, 61:8, 66:13, 76:11)

V. False spiritual leaders are cursed for inversion--reversing spiritual values.

A. The religious leaders overly literalized some portions of Scripture to look pious while overlooking more weighty items like justice and mercy.

B. False spiritual leaders make a big deal out of minor items.

C. The heart is the point.

VI. False spiritual leaders are cursed for extortion. They make merchandise out of people for their own gain.

VII. False spiritual leaders are cursed for deception.

VIII. False spiritual leaders are cursed for pretention--they pretend to be better than everyone else.

Application Questions:

1. Why is the false spiritual leader so dangerous to the body of Christ?

2. What are some minor things that false spiritual leaders make a big deal over?

3. Pride affects us all, not just false spiritual leaders? How can we be active in fighting against this in our lives? Explain.
