**Matthew 23**

1. **The “scribes and Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat” (verses 1-12)**
   1. “Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do,”
      1. The truth is the truth regardless of who says
      2. The truth they taught was to be obeyed (because it was the Word of God)
   2. However; the scribes and Pharisees did not practice what they taught (Romans 2:21-23; Titus 1:16).
   3. They imposed a heavy burden upon men
   4. They were vain and loved titles of honor.
2. **Jesus rebukes the scribes and Pharisees (verses 13-36)**
   1. They shut the door of heaven to those who are seeing
   2. They use religion to rob those who were vulnerable
   3. Their zealousness doubled the corruption of new converts
   4. They purposedly misled others in an effort to avoid their commitments and responsibilities.
   5. They neglected the weightier matters of the Law and put importance on the smaller matters of the Law.
   6. The were blind to their state, they were blind to real cleanness
   7. They disguised themselves to appear righteous, pure, clean on the outside, yet they were unclean, full of hypocrisy and wickedness on the inside.
   8. They prided themselves in being better than their forefathers, yet through their actions they prove to be descendants of murderers.
   9. They rejected and abused God’s prophets and would be charged with all the righteous blood shed throughout time. All of these things would occur throughout this generation.
3. **Jesus laments over Jerusalem (verses 37-39)**
   1. They persecuted God’s messengers
   2. Jesus loved them so much, He wanted to gather them under His care and yet they rejected Him.
   3. Judgement would come upon Jerusalem (Luke 3:9; 2 Peter 2:9)
   4. They squandered this opportunity, the only way to see Christ now would be through their acceptance of Him.