

# JESUS UNCENSORED

## Week 2- “The Danger of Legalism”

### Matthew 23

*“Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: ‘The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. So you must obey them and do everything they tell you.’”* **Matthew 23:1-3a (NIV)**

**Truth is truth no matter whose mouth it comes out of!**

*“But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. They tie up heavy loads and put them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.”*

**Matthew 23:3b-4 (NIV)**

**Takeaway #1- Practice what you preach**

*“Everything they do is done for men to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; they love to be greeted in the marketplaces and to have men call them 'Rabbi.’”* **Matthew 23:5-7 (NIV)**

**Takeaway #2- Stop worrying about your spiritual reputation.**

*16“Woe to you, blind guides! You say, ‘If anyone swears by the temple, it means nothing; but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.’ 17You blind fools! Which is greater: the gold, or the temple that makes the gold sacred?”* **Matthew 23:16-17 (NIV)**

**Takeaway # 3- Avoid creating your own “Ten Commandments”.**

*23“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.”* **Matthew 23:23 (NIV)**

**Takeaway #4- Follow God in every area of your life.**

*"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean. Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness."* **Matthew 23:25-28 (NIV)**

**Takeaway #5- Get far away from the legalistic people in your life.**

**Rules have never made anyone more like Jesus.**