

The Tragedy of Self-Deception

Series – *Authentic: Real Faith That Fits Real Life*

– Matthew 23:29-39 –

1. A Distorted View

A. *Their Profession (vss. 29-32)*

B. *Their Heart (vss. 33-36)*

2. Our Response

A. Be **HUMBLE**

B. Be **OBEDIENT**

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”

– James 1:22

Application Questions. . .

1. What part of the text or message had the greatest impact on you? Where were you most encouraged, intrigued, or challenged?
2. Do you consider self-deception to be a significant threat for believers in our day? Why or why not?
3. Based on all that Jesus has said them (in ch. 23), what one-word adjective would you use to describe the Pharisees? What practices touch close to home in your life?
4. Sometimes our areas of disobedience are blind spots. How can we see these areas that we often overlook?
5. What about today’s church do you lament over (as Jesus did over Jerusalem)?
6. How would you reach out to someone who has become embittered by religious hypocrites or empty religion?
7. In what area of your life could you do a better job at applying God’s Word rather than merely listening to it?

