

The Danger of Being Religious (Part Two)

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

– Matthew 23:16-22 –

Last Week (Part One):

1. A Self-Serving View of the Kingdom
2. A Self-Serving View of People

3. A Self-Serving View of the Scriptures

A. What were they doing?

B. Why was it wrong?

C. What should we learn?

“Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.’”

“But I tell you, Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black.”

“Simply let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.” – Matthew 5:33-37

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. Re-read Matt. 23:16-22 out of *The Message*. What word, phrase, or image stands out to you?
3. What contrast is Jesus making between swearing oaths and true integrity?
4. How does this kind of integrity contrast with our cultural expectations? For example, does our society care more about being believed or being truthful? Explain
5. What does it mean to simply let our ‘Yes’ be yes, and our ‘No,’ no? How is anything beyond this from the evil one (Matt. 5:37)?
6. If Jesus was speaking to us on this topic today, what are some of the practices He might confront as wrong?
7. Do you see the commitments you make as an expression of your integrity before God and others? Why/why not?

