

Big Shot Syndrome

Series – *Authentic: Real Faith That Fits Real Life*
– Matthew 23:1-7 –

Jesus gives us two primary instructions:

1. Do Heed Their Teaching (vs. 3a)

2. Don't Follow Their Example (vs. 3b)

(a) They were **HYPOCRITICAL** (vs. 3)

(b) They were **INDIFFERENT** (vs. 4)

(c) They were **MOTIVATED BY APPEARANCES** (vss. 5-7)

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. Six times in this chapter Jesus uses the word *hypocrite* to describe the Pharisees and religious teachers. How would you define this word?
3. Imagine yourself being present as Jesus spoke. In light of your own personality, what words spoken by Jesus stand out to you the most?
4. From what Jesus says about the Pharisees, rank the following according to how you see their importance to God: (a) what we say, (b) what we know, and (c) what we do.
5. What do you think is the best *cure* for hypocrisy? What do you feel is the best *prevention*?
6. What additions to the Gospel might a new believer encounter in your church? What should be done about that?
7. How can we be serious about obeying Christ without becoming legalistic, judgmental and without the self-righteous attitude that the Pharisees had?

