

1. **THE PHARISEES WALK IN THE DARKNESS OF SPIRITUAL IGNORANCE (vv13-18)**

A. They are ignorant of the Law's true application (v13)

If you cannot beat your opponent, attack his testimony or credibility.

B. They are ignorant of Christ's true identity (vv14-15)

1. He verifies his testimony

2. He points out their ignorance

3. He points out the error of judging according to the flesh (v15)

In this case, the Pharisees have established a kind of religious standard related to God's Law, **but a clear misuse of the Law.**

1. Some Examples:

a. Protecting the Sabbath to the exclusion of needy people

i. John 5:16

ii. John 9:16

b. Playing semantic games with oaths and promises.

i. Matthew 23:16

c. Practicing the lightweight parts of God's word while neglecting the weightier.

i. Matthew 23:23

d. Maintaining religious ceremony while neglecting the soul.

i. Matthew 23:5

ii. Matthew 23:25

Question: How do your judgments represent the view of Christ? Do they distort or obscure the Word of God with what is fleshly/worldly?

C. They are ignorant of Christ's origin (vv16-18)

2. **JESUS WALKS IN THE LIGHT OF TRUTH (vv19-24)**

A. The Pharisees seek to humiliate Him (v19a)

B. Jesus addresses their spiritual ignorance (v19b)

C. Jesus addresses their spiritual destiny (vv21-22)

1. Their sin will keep them out of heaven

2. Their mockery will keep them from the truth

D. Jesus addresses their spiritual origin (vv23-24)

Question: Do you think this thought makes Christ happy?

Question: What if Christ had ceased all dialogue with this crowd?

3. **JESUS' WALK REMAINS ON MISSION (VV25-30)**

A. The Pharisees reject the light of life (vv25-26)

B. Jesus continues to give the light of life (vv28-30)

Application Questions

- How are we like the Pharisees, judging life and people according to the flesh?
- How do our judgments display our view of Christ and others?

- Are there individuals or groups that you have stopped talking to because their viewpoints and methods are distasteful to you?
- How can we maintain hearts that are full of grace and truth so that we are able always to speak God's truth to those we meet?
- Jesus said, "I always do the things that are pleasing to him."
 1. None of us can say that, but is that our ambition?
 2. What are some things in your life that you are sure please the Lord?
 3. What things in your life do not please the Lord?
 4. Confess those and commit yourself to always doing the things that are pleasing to him!