

**Next Steps:** Matthew 23 can be a hard chapter for a lot of people because of the way Jesus condemns the self-righteous religious leaders. Spend some time this week looking back over this chapter as you ask God for discernment with “spiritual” leaders... and spending serious time in self-evaluation.

Read Matthew 23:1-12

Who is Jesus talking to?

Who is Jesus talking about?

What attitudes are we to avoid?

What attitudes should we embrace? (James 4:6-10 & 1 Peter 5:5-6)

Read Matthew 23:13-36

What are the words Jesus uses to describe these religious leaders?

Why does Jesus pronounce these “Woes” on the religious leaders?

How should people with active faith live? (James 2:14-26)

Read Matthew 23:37-39

How did Jesus show his concern for the people of Jerusalem? (Luke 19:41-44)

How does Jesus show his sacrificial love for all people? (John 15:12-17 & 1 John 4:9-11)

What can you do this week to love others sacrificially?

**Next Week:** The Bible is filled with predictions that have come true. Most people are very interested in predictions about the future. In Matthew 24 Jesus gives us a lot to consider as He talks about future events.