

Lightening Others' Loads: Lessons in Disciple-Making Leadership from Mt. 23:1-12

What is woe and warning to Pharisees is good news for servant-leaders. By honoring God and growing in Christ-likeness, it results in our own gospel humility, spiritual maturity and leadership as well as those we serve, lead and disciple. In this session, we'll look at Christ's clear commands in Mt. 23 as well as helpful insights from wise Christian leaders.

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Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, ²“The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, ³so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice. ⁴They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. ⁵They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, ⁶and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues ⁷and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others. ⁸But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers. ⁹And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. ¹⁰Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ. ¹¹The greatest among you shall be your servant. ¹²Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

- 1. What we as disciple-making leaders often don't see – how we can burden those we serve.**
- 2. What we see in the text:**
 - a. The person of Christ v. 1
 - b. Preaching v. 3f
 - i. To us is primary
 - ii. Through us is secondary
 - c. Practicing v. 3ff
 - d. Performance v. 5
 - e. Placing heavy burdens vv. 4-7
 - f. Pursuing Christ in humility and unity vv 8-12

- g. Process of sanctification

3. What we see in disciple-making leadership

- a. Aligning what we say with what the Bible says
- b. Aligning what we do with what the Bible says
- c. Aligning what we say and what we do in the context of the lives of those we disciple, serve & lead

4. What we see in part

- a. God's plan
- b. Our motivations
- c. Disciples' actions, thoughts, desires

5. Last thoughts & action steps

- a. What has to stop?
- b. What needs to start?
- c. What must change?
- d. Who needs to know?