

What about hypocrites?

Hi all,

Well we are in a “stay home” “stay safe” lockdown mode. I hope you are all getting along with everyone in the house. I hope you took some time last week to improve those relationships with your family. Just a reminder, “BE PATIENT”, this could likely be a while but rest assure, God is in control and this will pass in time.

So here are this week's random questions from the book.

- Question 1286: “What kind of car did you learn how to drive on?” I’m hoping all of you will say a go-cart... That was truly random. Haha.
- Question 996: “What keeps you busy most days?” That’s a good question! Teleworking, TV, games on my phone.
- Question 1376: Have you ever made your own orange juice? Yep, but it always ends up as a smoothie.

So let’s get into today’s lesson:

What about hypocrities?

Hypocrisy isn’t on God’s agenda. Let’s be hypocrisy free.

Confidential Source: Matthew 23

“So, what does hypocrisy mean?” According to Merriam-Webster, a feigning to be what one is not or to believe what one does not: behavior that contradicts what one claims to believe or feel. Example of hypocrisy in a sentence: “When his private letters were made public, they revealed his hypocrisy.”

In 1939 just before the outbreak of World War II, Germany and Russia signed the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact. This treaty promised that neither nation would attack the other, and it laid out a plan for how they would divide the nations of Eastern Europe between them. Yet in 1941, without warning or provocation, Adolf Hitler sent his tanks across the Russian border in a sneak attack.

Questions to consider:

- Do you think Hitler had any interest in keeping his word? The devil will tell you anything you want to hear to get you to do what he wants you to do. He is a master liar; in fact, Jesus declared Satan to be "the father of lies" (John 8:44).
- If Hitler was a hypocrite about this signed pact, do you think he was about other things? The devil breaks every promise that he makes. He never delivers what he leads us to expect. While sin may be enjoyable for a little while (Hebrews 11:25), it always leads to a bitter end.

Here’s another story: The story is told of a zoo that was noted for their great collection of different animals. One day the gorilla died, and to keep up the appearance of a full range of animals, the zookeeper hired a man to wear a gorilla suit and fill in for the dead animal. It was his first day on the job, and the man didn’t know how to act like a gorilla very well. As he tried to move convincingly, he got too

close to the wall of the enclosure and tripped and fell into the lion exhibit. He began to scream, convinced his life was over...until the lion spoke to him: "Be quiet, or you're going to get us both fired!"

Questions to Consider:

- The story noted that the zoo had a collection of different animals. Do you think the zoo made up other things about themselves?
- Why do you think the zoo substituted fakes to look like really animals? The Pharisees, pretended to study God's Word seriously but were frauds at heart. Let's discover some problems associated with being a substitute follower of God.

BIBLE TRUTHS

BIBLE TRUTH 1: Hypocrites know God's Word but do not apply it to themselves.

Matthew 23-2-4

2 "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. 3 So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. 4 They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.

- People used to say, "Do as I say, not as I do." What is wrong with that type of thinking?
- The first sad truth about hypocrites is that they know better.
- The Pharisees did not practice what they preached. They talked the talk – correctly! But they did not walk the walk.

BIBLE TRUTH 2: Hypocrites want to draw attention to their positions.

Matthew 23:5-7, 12

5 "Everything they do is done for people to see: They make their phylacteries[a] wide and the tassels on their garments long; 6 they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; 7 they love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to be called 'Rabbi' by others.

12 For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

- How does it make you feel to be around people who try to draw attention to themselves? Let me know what you think?
- The second sad truth about hypocrites is that everything they do is done for people to see. They loved public honors and fancy titles.
- Jesus warned that only those who sincerely humble themselves will be exalted.

BIBLE TRUTH 3: Hypocrites care more about making people follow rules than leading them to know God.

Matthew 23:13, 15, 23, 25, 27

13 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to

15 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are.

23 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.

25 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.

27 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean.

- How have you seen people use religion to try to control people?
- Thirdly, hypocrites use people rather than serve people.
- Hypocrites play games with God’s Word.
- The Pharisees carefully handled certain things to the law but neglected the more important matters of the law like justice, mercy and faithfulness.

BIBLE TRUTH 4: Hypocrites are harmful to God’s kingdom.

Matthew 23:29-31, 34-38

29 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You build tombs for the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous.³⁰ And you say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’³¹ So you testify against yourselves that you are the descendants of those who murdered the prophets. 32 Go ahead, then, and complete what your ancestors started!

34 Therefore I am sending you prophets and sages and teachers. Some of them you will kill and crucify; others you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town. 35 And so upon you will come all the righteous blood that has been shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berekiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. 36 Truly I tell you, all this will come on this generation.

37 “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.³⁸ Look, your house is left to you desolate.

- Finally, hypocrites do great damages to God’s kingdom.
- Because Jerusalem allowed hypocritical leaders to damage God’s kingdom, the city would suffer bloodshed and desolation.

- In the end, hypocrites will get what they deserve.
- In contrast, helpful Christian leaders will be remembered and rewarded.

CHALLENGE

Pharisees wore small boxes containing Scripture verses on their foreheads as a way of displaying how religious they were.

I WOULD LIKE TO CHALLENGE YOU THIS WEEK TO INTERNALIZE (LOOK IT UP) A PART OF THIS BIBLE TEXT WITH MEMORIZATION THIS WEEK.

Have a blessed week gang, if you have any prayer requests, please send them. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE take a few minutes to reach out to other Tweens and see how they are doing. WALK THE WALK. You can send those prayer requests to cameronfamily10@gmail.com . Stay safe, stay home, and God loves you and so do we.

Laurie and Steve