



DAY 01 | **Principle:** *Followers of Jesus must reject self-promoting religion and embrace humble servanthood under Christ's sole authority.*

Read Matthew 23:1-12, Ezekiel 34:1-6, John 10:11-13, Galatians 1:10, John 5:44, and Phil. 2:2-8

1. How did the Scribes and Pharisees distort their authority, and what effect did it have on those they were leading?
2. Man is designed by God to have a need for recognition. When does that need become problematic in your life, and how does this text help you understand how Jesus expects you to manage it?

DAY 02 | **Principle:** *Spiritual blindness caused by self-centered religion closes off access to God.*

Read Matthew 23:13-22, Isaiah 6:9-10, Proverbs 14:12, Romans 1:21-22, Pro. 11:14, and Heb. 3:13

1. How can religious leaders or teachers actually worsen another person's spiritual condition?
2. Who are you personally at risk of leading astray when you have unaddressed spiritual blind spots? Who in your life helps you see your blind spots?



DAY 03 | **Principle:** *Jesus condemns religious performance that is outwardly proper and disguises an inner heart of filth and unbelief.*

Read Matthew 23:23-36, 1 Samuel 16:7, Isaiah 29:13, Jeremiah 17:9-10, Ps. 51:6-10, and Micah 6:8

1. What do these woes reveal about what Jesus despises versus what He truly values?
2. Where in your life are you working harder on looking “Christian” than on actually living righteously before God? What is Jesus desiring for you to do or change?

DAY 04 | **Principle:** *God is filled with deep, compassionate love but will not forsake judgment upon those who persistently reject Him.*

Read Matthew 23:37-39, Genesis 12:1-3, Deuteronomy 7:6-8, Matthew 15:24, and Romans 9-11

1. Why did Jesus have such deep compassion for the Jewish people?
2. What warning in this text should fuel your passion to reach the lost people you love?