

FACES IN THE CROWD  
Jesus' Last Sermon  
Selected Old & New Testament Scriptures

We are in our 2<sup>nd</sup> week of our Easter Sermon Series entitled “*Faces In The Crowd*” with a Sermon entitled, “Jesus’ Last Sermon.”

We began our journey with Jesus’ Triumphant Entry Into Jerusalem:

- 2 disciples and the owner of the colt (donkey).
- Crowds of disciples – they were worshipping Jesus, but they were doing that for the wrong reason.
- The Pharisees commanded Jesus to silence His disciples, but how did Jesus respond?

Now the Triumphant Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem takes place on Sunday of what we call the “Passion Week”. Today I want us to stop on Tuesday of that week and look at the last Sermon that Jesus would preach.

The event is recorded for us in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke but it is Matthew that gives us the most details about this event in Jesus’ life.

If Jesus knew, and He did, that this would be the last Sermon what would He preach on:

He chooses to preach on of all things hypocrisy.

- Insincerity
- Pretense
- Two-faced

The word hypocrisy is from the Greek word meaning, “to act or play a part.” It was the same word used for what play actors did in Greek times when they acted out several parts in a play by putting on a different mask for each character they portrayed.

**They Had A False Concept Of Righteousness – verses 1-3**

- *Now Jesus turned to address his disciples, along with the crowd that had gathered with them. “The religion scholars and Pharisees are competent teachers in God’s Law. You won’t go wrong in following their teachings on Moses. But be careful about following them. They*

*talk a good line, but they don't live it. They don't take it into their hearts and live it out in their behavior. It's all spit-and-polish veneer.*  
(The Message)

- Nowhere in Scripture do we ever see any authority given to the Scribes and Pharisees.
- Here is how I would describe the role God had for these men, they were to be religious leaders.
  - Pastors / Deacons
- The only authority they had would come from the Word of God – “*The Word of God says.*” – **Rev. Billy Graham.**
- To the Scribes and Pharisees righteousness meant outward conformity to the Law of God, but they ignored the inward condition of the heart.
  - **Matthew 23:23-24**

#### **They Had A False Concept Of Ministry – verse 4**

- For them ministry meant handing down laws to the people adding to their burdens.
  - Where do you see that in Scripture?
  - **Matthew 11:28-30**
  - This is one of the reasons that the message of Christ was so attractive to the crowds.
- Religion always makes burdens heavier, a relationship with Christ will always make the burden of life lighter.

#### **They Had A False Concept Of Greatness – verses 5-12**

- How do you define success?
- For the Scribes and Pharisees, it meant being recognized by men.
  - **Matthew 5:16**
  - Phylacteries – small leather boxes they wore on their foreheads and arms (**Deuteronomy 6:8**).
  - Tassels were meant to be a reminder to the Jews that they were a distinct people, that they should walk in separation from the nations (**Deuteronomy 22:12**)
  - But Jesus says that we should be the salt and light to the world.
- The Pharisees thought that position was a mark of greatness.
  - Yet we find Jesus washing the Disciples feet.
- Albert Einstein once wrote – “*Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value.*”
- The Pharisees loved titles, Rabbi (my great one).

- One of the titles that is given to Jesus is “shepherd”.
  - **I Peter 5:6**