

**A Dangerous Righteousness:**  
*Learning Grace through Good Pharisees & the Great Physician*  
Part 2

**Perilous Places**

Matthew 5:20, 23:13-33 & 9:9-13

I. Where did the Pharisees end up? Matthew 23:13-33

For Pharisees of every age, the Great Wall, blocking the way to the Fountain of Grace is not our sin -- it is our Appearance of Righteousness!

*If we heed Jesus' Woes to Pharisees, we will Fear the Deadly consequences of . . .*

A. A Mask of **Truth**-defending vv. 13-15 (and 2-4)

You Guard the Way of Grace  
from the **Wrong Side** of the Gate  
Destroying Men's Souls.

B. A Mask of **Law**-fullness vv. 16-24

You Ignore Your Need for Grace  
by **Intense (selective) Obedience**  
Blinding Your Own Souls.

C. A Mask of Public **Reputation** vv. 25-28

You Disguise the Absence of Grace  
with a **Impressive Image** of Public Faithfulness  
Damning (& damming) Your Own Souls.

II. Where is a Pharisee's Hope?

Christ's Diagnosis:

*You Produce an Outward **Appearance** toward Men  
without Inward **Affection** for God.*

Christ's Prognosis:

*"How can you escape. . . ?" vv. 29-33*

Christ's Cure:

**Matthew 9:9-13**  
*Repenting of Our **Righteousness**, Running to the Savior*

## **Matthew 5:20**

20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

## **Matthew 23:13-33**

13 “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. 14 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation.

15 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.

16 “Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is obliged to perform it.’ 17 Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that sanctifies the gold? 18 And, ‘Whoever swears by the altar, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gift that is on it, he is obliged to perform it.’ 19 Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that sanctifies the gift? 20 Therefore he who swears by the altar, swears by it and by all things on it. 21 He who swears by the temple, swears by it and by Him who dwells in it. 22 And he who swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by Him who sits on it.

23 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. 24 Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!

25 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. 26 Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.

27 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. 28 Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

29 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, 30 and say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.’

31 “Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. 32 Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers’ guilt. 33 Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?

## **Matthew 9:9-13**

9 As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, “Follow Me.” So he arose and followed Him.

10 Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. 11 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, “Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

12 When Jesus heard that, He said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’ For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”