



EXP^{the}SISING PHARISEES

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Classic Definition

- ❖ **Pharisee: “A member of an ancient Jewish sect that emphasized strict interpretation and observance of the Mosaic Law in both its oral and written form.”**
- ❖ **They were the spiritual elite and leaders of God’s people during this time.**

Classic Definition

- ❖ They constantly hassled Jesus and His followers
- ❖ Matthew 22:15-33
- ❖ Jesus turns the tables back on them.
- ❖ Matthew 23:13-23
- ❖ Based upon this strictness and close observance, people with such characteristics are deemed Pharisaiical

True Pharisees

- ❖ Their reasons for their strictness and traditions had different motives
 - ❖ Matthew 23:25-33
 - ❖ Sermon On the Mount – Matthew 5
 - ❖ Anger – 5:21-22
 - ❖ Lust – 5:27-30
 - ❖ Divorce – 5:31-32
 - ❖ Oaths – 5:33-37
 - ❖ Retaliation – 5:38-41
 - ❖ Loving Your Enemies – 5:43-48
- They were more concerned with looking righteous on the outside, but not so concerned about being righteous on the inside.

True Pharisees Please Stand

- ❖ **We tend to be more like them than we like to admit.**
- ❖ **Questions often begin with “Is it really a sin if I...”**
- ❖ **The bigger question and more appropriate is - “Will I glorify God and bring praise and honor to Him? Or am I seeking to know how much I can get away with and still be “righteous”?”**

Surpassing The Pharisees

- ❖ What affect are we having on others by our attitudes and actions?
- ❖ Matthew 23 – Jesus calls them **HYPOCRITES** 6 times and blind guides in v.16
- ❖ Matthew 5:20 – “For I tell you unless you righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”



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**Whose Standard Are You
Living By?**