

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further ***International Bible Lessons***

Matthew 23:1-4, 23-26

Sunday, July 8, 2018

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. In what places did the teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit? What did that mean?

They sat in Moses seat. They taught and ruled in official places of authority in the (mostly religious) government of the Jews.

2. Why do you think Jesus talked about the sins of the teachers of the law and the Pharisees where the crowds and His disciples could hear Him rebuke them?

Jesus did not want the crowds and His disciples to do as the scribes and Pharisees did, because they were bad examples, but at the same time he wanted to teach them to respect and obey those in authority when they rightly taught the Bible's commands rather than follow their disobedience of God by word or example. Jesus carefully taught that leaders should not always be obeyed just because they are leaders.

3. Why did Jesus tell His hearers not to do as the Pharisees did? How might His words be translated into a general principle for everyone to follow?

They did not practice what they preached. Just because somebody else does something does not mean that you should do it too.

4. What were some of the heavy, cumbersome loads or burdens that the Pharisees put on the backs of the Jews?

Interpretations of the Law of Moses and human traditions that made it more and more difficult for people to live or follow God rightly.

5. What did Jesus say were the more important matters of the Law that the religious leaders neglected?

Justice, mercy and faithfulness.

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