

# The Pharisees

**They exchanged religion  
for a RELIGIOSITY**

**They exchanged something  
that was REAL for something  
that just LOOKED real**

## **Matt 23.27**

**Shame on you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean**

**1. A religious spirit wants  
you to feel superior and  
not humble**



## Lk 18.10

**Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector**

**SUPERIORITY**

**Your REACTION to someone's  
sin says more about YOU than  
it does about THEM**



**Instead of embracing  
HUMILITY, you've  
embraced SUPERIORITY**

## Prov 6.16

There are six things the Lord **hates**,  
seven that are **detestable** to him:

**HAUGHTY EYES**

**Haughty eyes = looking at people  
from a place of superiority**

**CRITICAL**

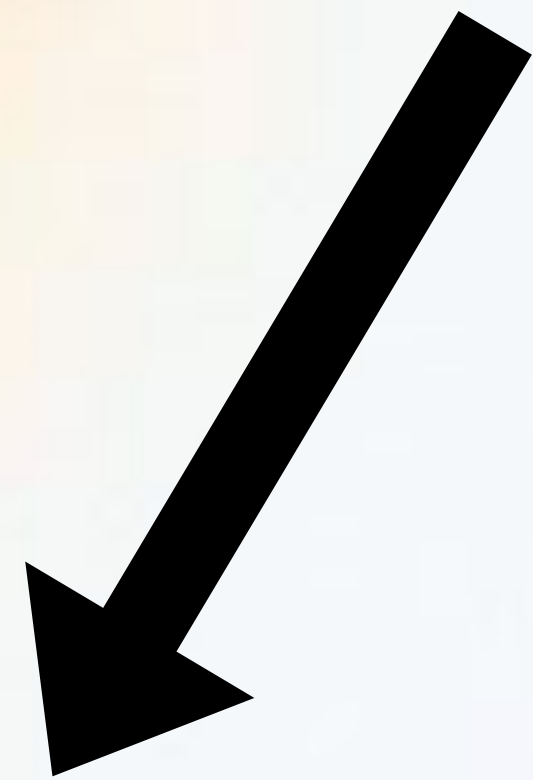
**2. A religious spirit wants  
PEOPLE'S approval, more  
than GOD'S approval**



## **Mk 12.38**

**Jesus said, "Watch out for the Pharisees. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets**

# Religious spirit



**Trying to impress  
every one**



**NO ONE'S opinion  
means anything**

**"A religious-spirited person will have a philosophy than will not "listen to men", but "only to God". But, since God usually speaks through people, this is an obvious delusion and reveals serious spiritual pride"**

## **Acts 7.51**

**You stiff-necked (stubborn) people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised.**

**You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit**



## **Matt 6.5**

**When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners TO BE SEEN by others**



**SUPER-SPIRITUALITY**

**Super-spirituality eventually evolves  
into superstitiousness**

# Superstition

**Having a belief  
in supernatural influences, especially  
as leading to good or bad luck**

**That superstitiousness is a  
manifestation of super-spirituality**

**3. A religious spirit  
wants conservatism,  
instead of celebration**



## 2 Sam 6.12

David went to bring up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with rejoicing. When those who were carrying the ark of the Lord had taken six steps, he sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf. Wearing a linen ephod,

**David was dancing before the Lord with all his might, while he and all Israel were bringing up the ark of the Lord with shouts and the sound of trumpets...As the ark of the Lord was entering Jerusalem, Michal daughter of Saul watched from a window. And when she saw King David LEAPING AND DANCING before the Lord, she despised him in her heart...**

**When David returned home to bless his household, Michal daughter of Saul came out to meet him and said, "How the king of Israel has distinguished himself today, going around half-naked in full view of the slave girls of his servants as any vulgar fellow would!" .. And Michal daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death**







## Psa 100.2

Serve the Lord with **gladness** and come  
before him with **joyful** songs



## Lk 15.25

Meanwhile, the older son (religious spirit) was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

"The older brother became angry and

**refused to go in**

**Religious people always think  
that by being SERIOUS, they're  
being SPIRITUAL**

**Gal 4.15**

**What has happened to all your **joy**?**

**FAKE JOY**

**It's based on what YOU'VE done  
for God and not on what GOD'S  
done for you**



**Neh 8.10**

**The joy of the Lord is my strength**

# Matt 11.29

Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out **on religion**? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life (strength). I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace (Message version)





**“Those who are beloved of the Lord must be the most happy and joyful people to be found anywhere on the face of the earth”**

**Charles Spurgeon**

**Rom 12.15**

**Rejoice with those who rejoice**



## **Jam 2:10**

**Whoever keeps the whole law (religious spirit) and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it**



**They'll never celebrate the many  
things you get RIGHT**

**But, they WILL punish you for the  
one thing you get WRONG**

## Gal 4.28

Like Isaac, we are children of promise (grace). At that time the son born according to the flesh (Ishmael – religious spirit) **persecuted** the son born by the power of the Spirit (grace). It is the same now

**And Michal daughter of Saul had  
no children (barren) to the day of  
her death**

# Conquering the religious spirit

Part 4