

Surrounded: Hypocrites

Matthew 23 outlines the seven woes of Jesus against the Pharisees.
Is the modern evangelical church guilty of any of these sins? Am I guilty?

New Song Community Church

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Reference	Woe	Addressed to	Sin	Counterpoint
Matthew 23:1-12	Intro	<i>Crowds & disciples</i> Scribes & Pharisees	<u>For they preach, but do not practice. Heavy burdens. Seen by others. Best seats.</u> Greetings in public. Called Rabbi.	<u>The greatest among you shall be your servant.</u> Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.
Matthew 23:13	1	Scribes & Pharisees Hypocrites	<u>For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people's faces.</u> For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in.	
<i>Matthew 23:14 not in the earliest manuscripts</i>	*	<i>Scribes & Pharisees Hypocrites</i>	<i>For you devour widows' houses and for a pretense you make long prayers;</i>	<i>therefore you will receive the greater condemnation.</i>
Matthew 23:15	2	Scribes & Pharisees Hypocrites Child of Hell	For you travel across sea and land to make a single <u>proselyte</u> , and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a <u>child of hell</u> as yourselves.	
Matthew 23:16-22	3	Blind guides Blind fools Blind men	If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.	And whoever swears by the temple swears by it and by <u>him who dwells in it.</u> And whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by <u>him who sits upon it.</u>
Matthew 23:23-24	4	Scribes & Pharisees Hypocrites Blind guides	For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have <u>neglected</u> the weightier matters of the law.	<u>Justice and mercy and faithfulness</u>
Matthew 23:25-26	5	Scribes & Pharisees Hypocrites Blind Pharisees	For you clean the <u>outside</u> of the cup and the plate, but <u>inside</u> they are full of <u>greed</u> and <u>self-indulgence</u> .	<u>First clean the inside</u> of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.
Matthew 23:27-28	6	Scribes & Pharisees Hypocrites	Whitewashed tombs... So you also <u>outwardly</u> appear righteous to others, but <u>within</u> you are full of <u>hypocrisy</u> and <u>lawlessness</u> .	
Matthew 23:29-36	7	Scribes & Pharisees Hypocrites Sons of those who murdered the prophets Serpents Brood of vipers	You witness against yourselves that you are sons of those who <u>murdered</u> the prophets... so that on you may come <u>all the righteous blood shed on earth</u>	Truly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

Surrounded: Run, Hide, Fight?

Matthew 23 focuses on Jesus' rebuke of the scribes and Pharisees.

American evangelicals as viewed by the media, #exvangelical, #emptythepews.

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Christians often view the world and culture through the lens of Romans 1-2. This table flips perception and outlines how the media and culture view Christians. It is a messy mix of the world, the flesh, and the devil. Some concerns are valid, while others are lawless rebellion against God. And all of this ignores the love and humble service of Christians in the world.

Group	Our Day	Ways the world views Christians (<i>right or wrong</i>)	Lesson
Herodians	Political & Economic	Christian nationalism Trump supporters January 6 th Q-Anon Anti-abortion Anti-women's rights Ted Cruz, Brett Kavanaugh, Amy Coney Barrett Hobby Lobby, My Pillow, Chick-Fil-A	Be careful when mixing religion and politics.
Essenes	Monks, Mountain Men, Preppers	Anti-sex Anti-birth control Oppression of women	Isolation leads to error.
Zealots	Patriots, Preppers	2 nd Amendment Concealed carry Patriots	Religious zealots can wound many people and provoke conflict.
Sadducees	Progressive Christians	Mainline denominations that have split over LGBTQIA+ support Devalue and question scripture False prophets Apostasy - Deconstruction, #exvangelical, #emptythepews	Drifting from scripture has grave consequences.
Pharisees	Legalism <i>These are some of the concerns of #exvangelical on social media.</i>	Religious abuse Purity movement Pastors with high salaries and jets Young earth creationism, anti-science Abuse victims are the sinners Remain in abusive marriage to avoid divorce Faith healing over vaccinations Disciplining children with spanking Sexual abuse in the church Hostile when asked to explain beliefs Oppression of self-expression and personal happiness	Religious legalism reinforces many negative stereotypes of Christians and harms the cause of Christ. Counter this with service, humility, justice, mercy, faithfulness, and self-examination.