



PROPER 26 ARTICLE NO. 2005.911
Gospel Mt 23:1-12

Humility
Matthew chapter 23 verses 1 through 12



Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.

For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi. But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ. But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

Refs

Moses' seat = from where the Law is promulgated.

phylacteries = arm bands, and head bands, which have prayers written on them as a constant reminder to the wearer.

borders of their garments = the tassels that hang at the bottom of their outer robe. They swing and sway as the wearer prays, so that the wearer can be seen as being pious even from a distance.

Rabbi = esteemed teacher, a "master" of the law.

abased= made lower, humbled, put-down.

(Matthew 23:1-12)

This message is for the disciples and all the followers.

Jesus talked about **humility** and the lack of it:

The interpreters of Moses Law -the scribes (lawyers) and the Pharisees, should be obeyed (they read the Law in the synagogue to the people). But do not copy what they do, for they lay down the law for all and give you poor no relief which they could easily do by some changes to the law. *...will not move them with one of their fingers.*

They strut about in their Priestly garments, and expect to be given the best rooms, and best seats, and love to be called by you Rabbi and greeted in the marketplace. But they will be humbled later.

Meanwhile do not think any of you is a Rabbi or a master while you have Me here as your Master. You are "the brethren". And since your Father is in heaven only, don't call anyone here "father".

If you would be greatest among the brethren, become as a servant to the others now, and I will put you in charge later.

In the subsequent verses Jesus criticizes the Scribes and the Pharisees (there are Pharisees amongst the crowd) for their behavior, and He calls them "serpents" and "vipers". He warns them that this is their last chance to accept Him.

Humility, lowliness of mind, the esteeming of ourselves small, inasmuch as we are so, the correct estimate of ourselves

Acts 20:19
"19 Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:"

Ephesians 4:2
"2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;"

Mt 23:33 *Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? 23:39 For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.*