

5Marks of a False Teacher Matthew 23:1-12

Jesus confronts the scribes and Pharisees for their religious pride and hypocrisy

I. Introduction: Five characteristics of false teachers from Jude 12-13

Context of Matthew 23

II. Background: God dealing with false leaders in Israel

Hosea 4:1-9 (An indictment of the priests of Israel)

Ezekiel 34:1-12 (An indictment of the shepherds of Judah)

The scribes and Pharisees in Jesus day (do as they say, not as they do)

Our responsibility as listeners – receive the Word with care

III. The Five Marks of False Teachers

vs. 3 – Hypocrisy

Romans 2:1-4

vs. 4 – Laying heavy burdens (guilt) without remedy or help

A “hard word” is not the same as a being “judgmental”

vs. 5 – Need for an audience

Religious showmanship – Amos 5:21-24

vss. 6-10 – Vainglory

Place of honor, front seats, greetings, titles (6-7)

Care in using titles in the church then and now (8-10)

vss. 11-12 – Pride

IV. Concluding thoughts on Humility

Ideas on humility from Judaism

Jesus is the final word on humility and mortification of pride

Philippians 2:3-11