

## Bringing Your Church 'In Focus'

### The Churches of Jesus' Day:

1. The First Pharisee Church —
2. The "No Hope" Sadducee Church —
3. The Social Action Zealot Church —
4. The Untied Essene Church —

### What Would Jesus Do If He Attended Your Church?

#### 1. He would focus on freedom; not on legalism.

*"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven in men's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to."* - Matthew 23:13

How do you test your faith? The word **Don't** or the word **Do**?

#### 2. He would focus on people; not on programs.

*"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as you are."* - Matthew 23:15

#### 3. He would focus on the real; not on the symbols.

*"Woe to you, blind guides! You say, 'If anyone swears by the temple, it means nothing; but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.' You blind fools! Which is greater: the gold, or the temple that makes the gold sacred?"* - Matthew 23:16,17

#### 4. He would focus on relationships; not on religion.

*"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices —mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law —justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former."* - Matthew 23:23

What do religions ask you to do?

#### 5. He would focus on truth; not on traditions.

*"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence."* - Matthew 23:27

#### 6. He would focus on being good; not on looking good.

*"Woe to 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. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness."* - Matthew 23:27

#### 7. He would focus on the present; not on the past.

*"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You build tombs for the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous."* - Matthew 23:29

### What Should We Learn?

1. The lesson of the word, woe.
2. The lesson of the word, hypocrite.
3. The heart of Jesus' teaching:

*It's not what you do, it's more **who you are!***

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6. He would focus on \_\_\_\_\_ good; not on \_\_\_\_\_ good.

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