

LET US NEVER NEGLECT

WEIGHTIER
MATTERS



JUSTICE / MERCY / FAITH

(Matthew 23:23,24)

WEIGHTIER MATTERS

Matthew 23:23,24 (NKJV)

²³ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! ^rFor you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and ^shave neglected the weightier *mat-
ters* of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.
²⁴ Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!

The Nature of Hypocrisy

- **Hypocrisy** defined: “the false claim to or pretense of having admirable principles or beliefs...”
- The **hypocrite** -- one thing on the outside, something else on the inside...

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The Nature of Hypocrisy

- Eight times in (Matt. 23) speaking directly to the scribes and Pharisees, Jesus said: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites” (vs 13, 14, 15, 16, 23, 25, 27, 29)...
- Jesus NEVER rebuked the the scribes and Pharisees for keeping the Law!

WEIGHTIER MATTERS

The Hypocrisy of the Scribes & Pharisees



- Giving (Mat 6:2)
- Praying (Mat 6:5)
- Fasting (Mat 6:16)
- Judging (Mat 7:5)
- Worship (Mat 15:7-9)
- Doctrine (Mat 16:12)
- In applying scripture (Luke 13:10-17)
- Did not follow their own teaching (Mat. 23:3)

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Scribes & Pharisees Hypocrisy In Matthew 23



- Abused their authority (v. 1-4)
- Loved praises of men (v. 5-12)
- Impediment to others entering into the kingdom (v. 13).
- Religious but unjust in their conduct (v. 14).
- A bad influence on new converts (v. 15).
- Foolish and blind in religious duties (v. 16-22).

WEIGHTIER MATTERS

Scribes & Pharisees Hypocrisy In Matthew 23



- Lacked judgment, mercy and faith (v. 23).
- Magnified the external errors of others while overlooking their sinful attitudes & character. (v. 24; cf Mat 7:1-4).
- Externally, religiously meticulous, but internally very wicked (vs. 25-28).
- Praised the martyred prophets, but persecuted Christ and his apostles (vs. 29-32).

WEIGHTIER MATTERS

Scribes & Pharisees Hypocrisy In Matthew 23



They emphasized
the outward act...

Jesus emphasized
attitudes behind
the act ...

WEIGHTIER MATTERS

What Are “Weightier Matters”?

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- “These you ought to have done” : giving a tenth of “mint, and anise and cummin,” were less “weighty.
- But - they were STILL required to give a tenth - they were required to keep the jots and tittles of the Law!
- Jesus is NOT teaching that when God’s grace is coupled with our sincerity, keeping His commands is unnecessary.

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- **Lou-Nida:** βαρύτερος, εἶα, ὅ: pertaining to being important in view of substantive character.
- **BDAG:** “‘heavy’ ... the component of heaviness resident in the object depicted dominates ...”
- **Vines:** “in the comparative degree “weightier,” 23:23, of details of the law of God.”

WEIGHTIER MATTERS

What Are “Weightier Matters”?

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These you ought to have done
without leaving the others undone

JUSTICE / MERCY / FAITH

FOUNDATION / SUPPORT / UNDER

WEIGHTIER MATTERS

What Are “Weightier Matters”?

²⁵ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!

^tFor you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and ³self-indulgence.

²⁶ Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.

²⁷ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!

^uFor you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead *men’s* bones and all uncleanness. ²⁸ Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

Their actions
appeared to
be right, but
their hearts
were NOT
right!

When our
heart is right
we will seek
to do what is
right!

WEIGHTIER MATTERS

JUSTICE / MERCY / FAITH



Matthew 23:23–24 (NKJV)

²³ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier *matters* of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. ²⁴ Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!

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JUSTICE / MERCY / FAITH



Micah 6:8 (NKJV)

⁸ He has shown you, O man, what *is* good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?

WEIGHTIER MATTERS

JUSTICE / MERCY / FAITH



Hosea 12:5–6 (NKJV)

⁵ That is, the Lord God of hosts. The Lord *is* His memorable name. ⁶ So you, by *the help of* your God, return; Observe mercy and justice, And wait on your God continually.

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JUSTICE / MERCY / FAITH



Full of extortion and self-indulgence (25)

Full of hypocrisy and lawlessness (28)

Condemned the innocent (29-35)

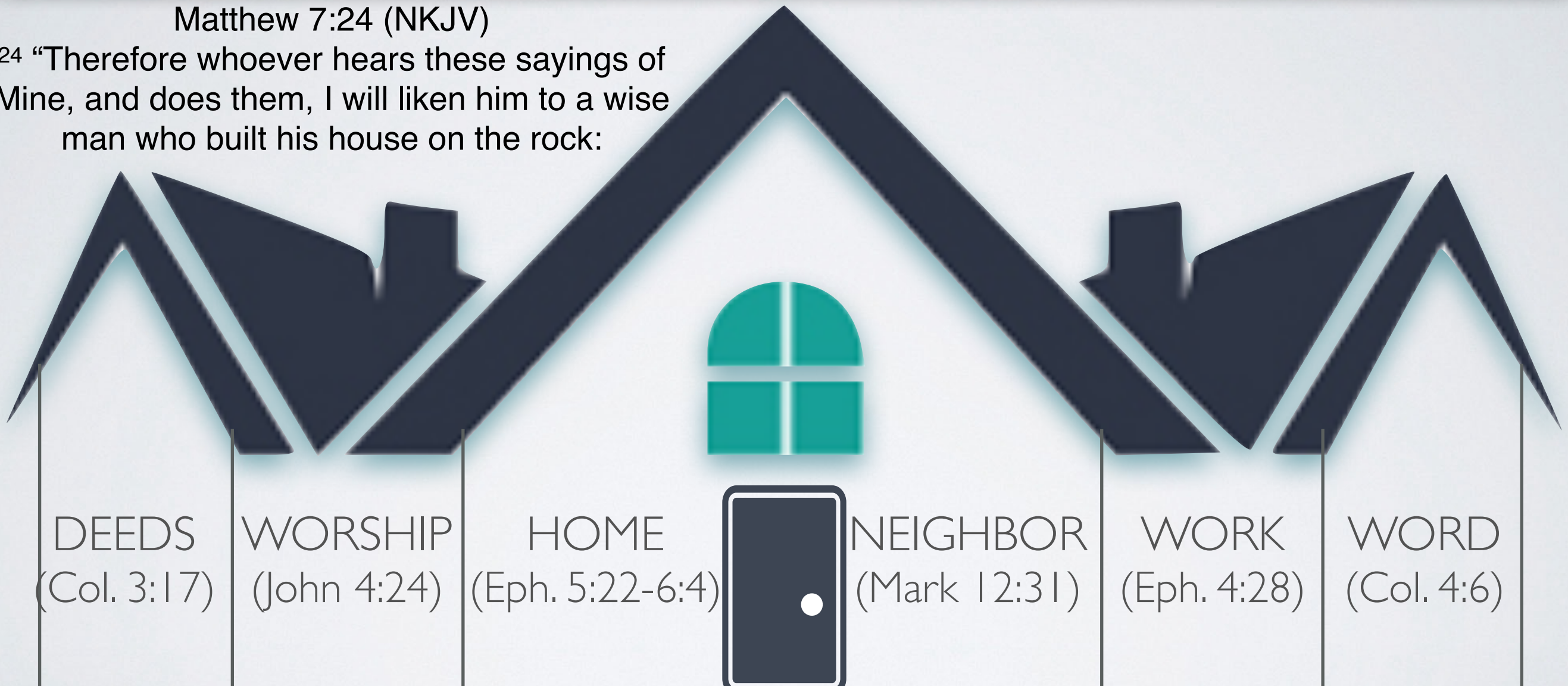
- **JUSTICE:** “administration of what is right and fair” (BDAG) / the absence of partiality in the treatment of others.
- **MERCY:** “kindness or concern expressed for someone in need, compassion, pity, clemency” (BDAG)
- **FAITH:** “the state of being someone in whom confidence can be placed, *faithfulness, reliability, fidelity, commitment*” (BDAG)

WEIGHTTIER MATTERS

JUSTICE / MERCY / FAITH

Matthew 7:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:



JUSTICE / MERCY / FAITHFULNESS

JESUS FEAR TRUTH FAITH HOPE LOVE

WEIGHTIER MATTERS

CHARACTER & COMPLIANCE



- God will reject my worship, service or good deeds if I do not treat my fellow man fairly, compassionately or faithfully!
- This truth does NOT negate my obligation before God to seek out and obey His will in all things.
- We cannot neglect any of God's word and expect Him to be pleased with us.

WEIGHTIER MATTERS

CHARACTER & COMPLIANCE



- A “head full” of truth, in and of itself, does NOT make one righteous before God - One MUST apply the entirety of truth to His life.
- If we are fundamentally godly in character, we will seek to know all of God’s will and desire to obey Him.
- God knows our hearts & our deeds! (Heb. 4:13)

WEIGHTIER MATTERS

CHARACTER & COMPLIANCE



- I MUST seek more than obey certain commands (*God's word is not a buffet line*) — I must SEEK to become godly in character! (Col. 3:12-17)
- My character is a choice - something to be done (Mat. 23:23; Prov. 4:23; 2 Pet. 1:5-10)
- Godly character produces humble submission to everything God commands, including baptism, worship, the work of the church, doctrinal soundness, etc. (Ja 3:11-18)

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Charts by Don McClain

Preached April 25, 2021 / West 65th Street church of Christ P.O. Box 190062 /
Little Rock AR 72219 / Phone: 501-568-1062 / Email – donmcclain@sbcglobal.net

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Matthew 28:18–20 (NKJV)

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.