

THE IMPORTANCE OF

WEIGHTIER MATTERS



JUSTICE / MERCY / FAITH

(Matthew 23:23,24)

WEIGHTIER MATTERS

Matthew 23:23,24 (NKJV)

²³ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and ^shave 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!

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

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 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!

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...

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 14:1-6)
- Did not follow their own teaching (Mat. 23:3)



WEIGHTIER MATTERS

THE HYPOCRISY OF THE SCRIBES & PHARISEES



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 & blind in religious duties (v. 16-22).

WEIGHTIER MATTERS

THE HYPOCRISY OF THE SCRIBES & PHARISEES



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 & his apostles (vs. 29-32).

WEIGHTIER MATTERS

THE HYPOCRISY OF THE SCRIBES & PHARISEES



MATTHEW 23

- They emphasized outward actions while ignoring internal character and attitudes.
- Jesus emphasizes the internal character and attitudes behind our actions.

WEIGHTIER MATTERS

WHAT ARE “WEIGHTIER MATTERS”?

²³ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and ^shave 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!

- “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.

WEIGHTIER MATTERS

WHAT ARE “WEIGHTIER MATTERS”?

²³ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and ^shave 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!

- **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”?

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

^t For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and ³ self-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!

^u For 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

WHAT ARE “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!

WEIGHTIER MATTERS

WHAT ARE “WEIGHTIER MATTERS”?

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

WHAT ARE “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.



WEIGHTIER MATTERS

WHAT ARE “WEIGHTIER MATTERS”?



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)

WEIGHTIER MATTERS

CHARACTER & COMPLIANCE

Matthew 5:18–20 (NKJV)

¹⁸ For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. ¹⁹ Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

WEIGHTIER MATTERS

CHARACTER & COMPLIANCE



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.”

WEIGHTIER MATTERS

WHAT ARE "WEIGHTIER MATTERS"?



JUSTICE / MERCY / FAITH

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)

WEIGHTIER MATTERS

CHARACTER & COMPLIANCE



**Godly character produces
humble submission to everything
God commands, including
baptism, worship, the work of the
church, doctrinal soundness, etc.
(Mat. 28:18-20; Jas 3:11-18; Col. 3:17)**

THE IMPORTANCE OF

**WEIGHTIER
MATTERS**



JUSTICE / MERCY / FAITH

**THE CHRISTIAN WHO
EMPHASIZES WEIGHTIER
MATTERS DOES NOT VIEW THE
“LITTLE THINGS” AS
UNIMPORTANT, BUT IS
CONCERNED WITH KEEPING
ALL OF JESUS’S TEACHING!**



THE IMPORTANCE OF

WEIGHTTIER MATTERS



Charts by Don McClain

Preached: April 25, 2021 / West 65th Street church of Christ / March 17, 2024 /
Bryant church of Christ 9500 AR 5, Alexander AR 72002 / Phone: 501-568-1062 / Email –
donmcclain@sbcglobal.net

More Keynote, PPT & Audio Sermons WWW.BRYANTCHURCHOFCHRIST.COM

Luke 18:9–14 (NKJV)

⁹ Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ ¹³ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise *his* eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”