



QUEST 52

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Characteristics of the Pharisees

1. They attempted the impossible by loving God and money at the same time (Matt 23:25; Luke 16:14).
2. They believed that association was equivalent to endorsement (Mark 2:16; Luke 5:30; 15:2).
3. They opposed and ridiculed Jesus and his followers (Matt 9:11; 21:15; Mark 15:31; Luke 6:2, 7; 11:53; 23:10; Acts 4:5–7; 6:12).
4. They meticulously followed rules but had no real moral authority (Matt 5:20; 7:29; Mark 1:22)
5. They had a list of taboos that were not from the Bible (Matt 12:2; 15:2; Mark 2:24; 7:1–5; Luke 6:2; 11:37–38).
6. They knew the written word but did not know the living word (Matt 2:4–5; 9:34; 12:24; 23:13).
7. They designed shackles which gave false security if you kept them and false guilt if you did not.
8. Their interpretation of the Bible caused them to miss Jesus (Matt 9:3; 17:10; 21:45; 22:41ff.; 23:13; Mark 2:6–7; 3:22; 9:11; 12:35; Luke 5:21; 7:39; Luke 17:20; 19:39; John 8:13) as well as the more important issues of religion (Matt 23:23; Luke 11:42).
9. They sought approval of their party and not of God (Matt 23:15; Luke 7:30; 11:43; 20:46; John 12:19).
10. They were upset when the wrong people taught or lived the truth (Mark 11:27–28; John 1:24–25; 4:1; 12:19).
11. They sought signs but refused to believe them (Matt 12:38; 16:1; Mark 8:11; John 11:46–47).
12. They were offended rather than corrected by rebuke (Matt 15:12).
13. They sought to destroy Jesus (Matt 12:14; 22:15; 23:29–32; 26:57; Mark 3:6; 11:18; 14:1; 15:1; Luke 19:47; 22:2, 66; John 7:32; 11:57)
14. Their questions were designed to trap Jesus, not to listen to him (Matt 16:1; 19:3; 22:35; Mark 8:11; 10:2; 12:13, 28; Luke 11:53).
15. Their hypocritical hearts and positions of power defiled their followers (Matt 23:15, 26–27; Mark 8:15; 12:38; Luke 11:39)
16. They didn't really love the people they were leading (Mark 11:18; Luke 20:19; 22:2; John 7:45–48; 9:13ff).
17. They couldn't answer Jesus' questions (Matt 21:24–27; 22:41–46; Luke 14:3–4)
18. Aligned with any who served their purposes (Matt 27:62; Mark 3:6; 11:27; 12:13; 14:43; 15:1; John 18:3).
19. Some believed in Jesus (John 3:1–2; 12:42; Acts 5:34; 23:6)
20. They issued false flattery and friendship (Luke 7:36–39; 11:37–38; 13:31; 14:1).