

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for July 26, 1987

False Spiritual Leaders
Matthew 23:1-12
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Introduction: The Scriptures make it clear that not all of those in places as spiritual leaders should be in those places. We need to be able to separate the false spiritual leaders from the real (**Acts 20:28-31**).

Verse 1, Jesus has silenced the Pharisees. Now He goes on teaching. This is Christ's last public teaching.

False spiritual leaders will lack sincerity. They will talk sincerely, speaking wonderful words but their hearts are far away.

Do they practice what they preach? This is a sure mark of whether or not they are sincere.

Verse 2, they have seated themselves in the seat of Moses. They were not put there by God, but they have taken the place of Moses as teachers of the Law and prophets of God.

Verse 3, Jesus says to do and observe all they say. Why does Jesus say this? Because the Pharisees are in authority, it is assumed to first obey God; so they are to obey what is consistent with the Law.

John 10, the Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. He cares.

Verse 4, the Pharisees had put heavy, heavy loads on the people through traditions, but always had an out for themselves (**Matthew 15:1-7**).

There are marks to help us detect the true and false spiritual leaders: sincerity, sympathetic.