

The Condemnation—Part 1
“Opening Arguments”

Matthew 23:1-12 (Mark 12:38–40; Luke 11:37–52; 20:45–47)

The Confrontation (21:23-22:46)

The Condemnation (23:1-39)

The Second Coming (24:1-25:46)

The Conspiracy (26:1-16)

- I. **Jesus’ I** _____ (vs. 1-3)
- a. Liberal critics are wrong again! Chapter 23 is an actual teaching of Jesus, even though He said similar things to different audiences at different times as an itinerant preacher.
 - b. **to the crowds and to His disciples** = Jesus turned His attention from the Religious Leaders to (cf. Matt. 5:20)
 - c. **Pharisees** = only 6000 men that most likely developed in the 2nd century BC during the Maccabean Period
 - d. **scribes** = largely made up of Pharisees and considered the experts in the Law
 - i. They were still there listening to Jesus condemn them
 - e. **seated themselves in chair of Moses** = they took Moses authority & a teaching seat in a synagogue (James 3:1; cf. Jer. 14:14; 23:21, 32; 27:15; 28:15; 29:9; Matt. 5:21–6:18; 12:1ff; John 10:1, 10; 2 Peter 2:1-3, 10, 12–14, 17–19; Jude 8, 10, 12–13)
 - f. **observe, but do not do according to their deeds** = Honor, but do not imitate (cf. Acts 5:29; Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17)
- II. **Jesus’ I** _____ (vs. 4-7)
- a. **They Are Spiritual A** _____ (Matt. 11:28-30; cf. Ezek. 34:2–5; Matt. 9:36; Luke 11:46; Acts 15:10; Gal. 5:1)
 - b. **They Are Spiritual P** _____ (cf. Matt. 5:16; 6:1-5, 16; John 12:43)

- i. **Phylacteries** (*phylaktērion* / φυλακτήριον) or *tephillin* = small leather boxes that Jews would place parchments or scrolls in that contained 4 paragraphs of the Law (cf. Ex. 13:1–10, 11–16; Duet. 6:4–9; 11:13–21)
- ii. **the tassels** (Num. 15:38-41; cf. Deut. 22:12; Matt. 9:20; 14:36)

c. **They Are Spiritual H** _____

- i. **place of honor at banquets**
- ii. **chief seats**
- iii. **respectful greetings**
- iv. **Rabbi** = Greek: ῥαββι = Latin: **docēre** = English: doctor

III. **Jesus’ I** _____ (vs. 8-12)

- a. Jesus is NOT condemning titles or authority; He is condemning the heart that covets them for pride & pretense (cf. Acts 13:1; 22:1; 1 Cor 4:15; 12:28–29; Eph 4:11-13; 1 Thess. 5:12–13; 1 Tim 2:7; Heb. 5:12; James 3:1; 1 John 2:13)
- b. **⁸ But do not be called Rabbi; for One is your Teacher, and you are all brothers.**
 - i. **didaskalos** (διδάσκαλος) = “teacher, instructor” = The Holy Spirit (John 16:13-14; cf. John 14:16; 15:26; 16:8; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 12:3, 13)
- c. **⁹ Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven** = God, The Father (1 Cor. 4:15; cf. 1 Tim. 1:18; 2 Tim. 1:2; 2:1)
- d. **¹⁰ Do not be called leaders; for One is your Leader, that is, Christ** = **kathēgētēs** (καθηγητής) = “leader, guide, tutor, or master” = Christ Jesus, The Son
- e. Instead of imitating the scribes & Pharisees we are to imitate Jesus “**who did come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many**” (Matt. 20:25-28; cf. Job 22:29; Prov. 15:33; 22:4; 29:23; Mark 10:42–44; Luke 14:11; 18:14; John 3:30; 13:12–17; James 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:2-6)