

**The Condemnation—Part 2b**  
**“The Judgments”**  
**Matthew 23:13-33**

- I. **They Are Spiritual Roadblocks** (v. 13)
- II. **They Are Spiritual Predators** (v. 14; cf. Mark 12:40; Luke 20:47)
- III. **They Are Spiritual Corrupters** (v. 15)
- IV. **They Are Spiritual L\_\_\_\_\_** (vs. 16-22)
  - a. **blind guides** =an insult He will repeat 3 more times (cf. Matt. 15:14; 23:16, 17, 19, 24)
  - b. The issue is the same as it was in the Sermon on the Mount: Honesty (Matt. 5:33-37; cf. Ps. 50:14; 56:12; 61:8; 66:13; 76:11; John 8:44; Rom. 1:25; Acts 5:1–11)
  - c. Jesus gave 3 examples of the Religious Leader’s dishonestly making ridiculous and unbiblical distinctions in what make an oath binding:
    - i. (vs. 16-17, 21) **swears by the temple** vs. **swears by the gold of the temple**
      - 1. Their greed valued the gold more than God’s temple (cf. Luke 16:14ff)
      - 2. **by Him who dwells within it** = God makes whatever you swear by binding
    - ii. (vs. 18-20) **swears by the altar** vs. **whoever swears by the offering on it**
      - 1. Again, their greed focuses them on the offering
      - 2. **swears both by the altar and by everything on it** = there is no distinction to serve as a loophole to invalidate their oaths
    - iii. (v. 22) **swears by heaven** vs. **swears both by the throne of God and by Him who sits upon it.**
      - 1. Jews replaced the name of **God**, with **heaven** (cf. Matt. 3:2; 4:17; 5:3, 10, 19-20; 7:21; 10:7; 11:11-12; 13:11-24, 31, 33, 44-45, 47, 52; 16:19; 18:1, 3, 23; 19:12, 14, 23; 20:1-2; 23:13; 25:1)

- 2. Anything you swear by is made by God; therefore your oaths are always binding
- 3. Therefore, Jesus’ earlier conclusion still stand: <sup>37</sup> **But let your statement be, ‘Yes, yes’ or ‘No, no’; anything beyond these is of evil.”** (Matt. 5:37)

- V. **They Are Spiritual F\_\_\_\_\_** (vs. 23-24)
  - a. Old Testament Mosaic Law commanded tithing (cf. Deut. 14:22)
    - i. But most likely NOT **mint and dill and cummin**
  - b. There is no biblical command for Christians to tithe
    - i. There were 3 Old Testament tithes:
      - 1. A 10<sup>th</sup> for the Government (cf. Lev. 27:30; Num. 18:21-26; 2 Chron. 31:5)
      - 2. A 10<sup>th</sup> for the Religious Festivals (cf. Deut. 12:11, 17; 14:22-27)
      - 3. A 10<sup>th</sup> every 3 years for the poor and needy (cf. Deut. 14:28-29)
    - ii. Tithing is mentioned 6 times and never positively (cf. Matt. 23:23; Luke 11:42; 18:12; Heb. 7:5-9)
    - iii. Christians are told to give to the ministry of the Gospel as we feel led and as we are gifted by God (cf. 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8:12; 9:7ff)
      - 1. At Grace we consider tithes not a percentage, but whatever God has put on your heart to regularly give
      - 2. And Offerings are for special ministries: Gideons, Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong...and the Pregnancy Care Center, etc.
  - c. Jesus does NOT condemn them for legalistic tithing, but because they **neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness** (Micah 6:6-8; cf. Deut. 10:12–13; Ps. 51:16-17; Hos. 12:6; Zech. 7:9-10)
  - d. A **gnat** was the smallest unclean animal and the **camel** was the largest (cf. Lev. 11:4, 20, 23, 42; Amos 6:6 [Septuagint])