



ACHILLES

MESSAGE REVIEW

Jesus takes it very seriously when people who claim to represent Him couldn't be further from Him. Proudful pretending causes us to be more concerned about managing our image than developing our character. It causes us to be more concerned with the applause of men than the approval of God. The only way to be real is to serve without ulterior motives. The life Jesus modeled and the message He preached were one and the same – whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

WARM UP QUESTION

What games of pretend or make-believe did you play as a kid?

- 1** **Read Matthew 23:1-3.** The teachers and Pharisees are likely part of the crowds listening to Jesus. Why do you think He decides to speak to them and about them? Looking at verse 3, have you ever been in a position of having to do what someone tells you but not follow their example? Talk about **Colossians 3:23-24** as a group and how it relates.
- 2** **Read Matthew 23:4-7.** What are all the things these religious leaders do that proves their hypocrisy? What seems to be their main concern? Can you think of any modern day examples? When have you fallen into the trap of caring more about your image and the praise of man rather than the praise of God?
- 3** **Read Matthew 23:8-10.** Is there a person you've placed in a position of higher authority or honor than they should be placed, especially based on their outer appearance? Why does Jesus tell us to see them as a fellow brother or sister instead? Who is the only One worthy of our worship?
- 4** **Read Matthew 23:11-12.** What does serving others do for our pride? What are some ways you can serve as a group and/or as an individual without any ulterior motives? Pray about some ways you can serve in hiddenness.
- 5** Take some time to **read Philippians 2:1-11** one more time as a group. How did Jesus show us how to be real and get rid of any prideful pretending? How is the Holy Spirit convicting you of ways you may be pretending?

RESPOND

What have you learned about God from His Word? How is He asking you to apply it to your life? When will you apply it?

Encourage group members to read Daily Bible Reading on the church app or have it delivered to their inbox daily. Subscribe at tpcc.org/dbr. Use your group chat to check in on thoughts about these throughout the week!