

TRUST ISSUES: WITH ORGANIZED RELIGION

SEPTEMBER 23, 2018

SERMON STUDY

Have some of your group members read these verses aloud: Matthew 16:18, Matthew 23:1-12, Matthew 23:23-28, Jeremiah 17:9, & 1 Peter 2:5.

Dive deeper into this week's message and passage from the Bible. Here are some questions to help guide your group discussion.

The Pharisees were the church leaders of Jesus's day, and most assumed they were good role models and spiritual examples of how to worship and follow God. However, Jesus knew what was in their hearts—he knew the Pharisees were power-hungry, attention-seeking, self-centered leaders.

What happens when "religious" people care more about rules than relationships? Have you been impacted by a spiritual leader who wasn't worth following? What trust issues has your experience left you with? How does it feel to know that Jesus has similar trust issues with religious leaders?

Organized religion breeds hypocrisy because it's all centered on men's efforts to get to God and impress other people.

In what ways have you tried to pretend with God that you're better than you really are? In what ways have you tried or do you try to impress others with your actions, maybe even in the way you serve the church or people?

Christianity is not about what we can do to impress God with our performance, it's about what God did to show his love for us through Jesus's death and resurrection.

How can you guard against hypocrisy? In what ways can you point people to Jesus?

There are two simple things we can do to build the kind of church that's worth trusting—the kind of church Jesus came to build. First: Get real. Second: Really love Jesus.

Name some specific ways you can get real, stop pretending, and be vulnerable with people. What areas of your life do you need to stop minimizing your sin? In what ways can you or do you really love Jesus in your life, with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength? By loving Jesus in this way, what are a few ways you'd consider loving others in our city and around the world through the work our church is doing?

REFLECT

What is God saying to you through his word? What are you going to do about it, and when?

DAILY BIBLE READING

Need a review of what we're reading in Daily Bible Reading? Here's a glance at what we're being challenged with this week.

Day one: Matthew 16:18 | Upon this rock I will build my church.

Day two: Matthew 23:1-12 | They don't practice what they preach.

Day three: Matthew 23:23-28 | Outwardly you look like righteous people.

Day four: Jeremiah 17:9 | The human heart is desperately wicked.

Day five: 1 Peter 2:5 | You are his holy priests.

Visit tpcc.org/dailybiblereading to receive Daily Bible Reading in your inbox every morning.