



Introduction

Jesus confronts the religious leaders.



Questions

1. What does Jesus say is wrong with the Pharisees and scribes?
2. What does Jesus say will happen to those who exalt and those who humble themselves?
3. What are the weightier matters that the scribes and Pharisees have neglected?



Summary Points

- **v 1 to 36** Jesus criticises the scribes and Pharisees. He points out that they:
 - say but don't do (see theme) (v 1 to 4)
 - behave so that people will think they are superior to others (v 5 to 12)
 - make long prayers but exploit widows (v 13)
 - make great efforts to convert someone but make him as bad or worse than themselves (v 14 and 15)
 - regard monetary values and keeping laws as more important than respecting God's principles of justice, mercy and faith (v 16 to 24)
 - put on a show of goodness which hides their inner badness (v 25 to 28)
 - are continuing the behaviour of their forbears who persecuted and killed those whom God had sent (v 29 to 36)
- **v 37 to 39** Jesus says he would have liked to save the people of Jerusalem from the coming desolation

Timeline 30 AD (see below)



Theme

Hypocrisy

A selection of verses illustrating that we should not be two-faced.

The prophet Ezekiel talks about insincere people, who say pleasant things, but are really selfish hypocrites:

Ezekiel 33 verse 31

The psalmist says some people flatter and lie:

Psalms 78 verses 36 and 37

Jesus speaks about the hypocritical scribes and Pharisees in very unflattering terms:

Matthew 23 verse 27

Mark 7 verses 6 to 8

Luke 11 verse 39

The apostle John says that our love for our fellows is to be shown in deeds not just in words:

1 John 3 verse 18



Questions & Answers

Verses which answer the questions:

Q 1: v 4 to 6, Q 2: v 12, Q 3: v 23

Bible timeline

