

# CRINGE

Part 2: Tough Love

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Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: <sup>2</sup>“The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. <sup>3</sup>So you must obey them and do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach.” – *Matthew 23:1-3*

## The Big Issue: Hypocrisy

### Cringe Moments with the Pharisees (*Matthew 23:13-35*)

<sup>13</sup>“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven in men’s faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to go.

<sup>15</sup>“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as you are.

**The Issue:** Legalism says religious rules are the way to God.

**Jesus says:** “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” – *John 14:6*

<sup>23</sup>“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. <sup>24</sup>You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.

**The Issue:** Hypocrisy creates self-determined loopholes

**Jesus wants:** Disciples who do the right thing for the right reason

<sup>25</sup>“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. <sup>26</sup>Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

<sup>27</sup>“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men’s bones and everything unclean. <sup>28</sup>In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

**The Issue:** Religion is consumed with image management.

**Jesus says:** Authentic transformation doesn’t soak in. It spills out.

**God says:** “The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart. –1 *Samuel 16b*

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## Next Steps

If you accepted Jesus Christ today, we invite you to 9 Monday nights of free “dinner and a movie” at Alpha – a Practical Introduction to Christianity. Alpha starts this Monday night, October 18 at 5:45 PM in the Meeting Place. Read all the details on the back of today’s program.

### Small Group Questions



1. Do you watch any reality TV shows? Which ones, and what do you like about them?
2. Have you encountered hypocrisy in society? Tell us about your experience.
3. How would you respond to someone who says that the church is full of hypocrites?
4. Read the entire chapter of Matthew 23. How do you reconcile Jesus’ tone with his command to love our enemies? Do you think Jesus went too far?
5. Which of the “woes” is the most challenging for you? What are you going to do about it?
6. How can we pray for you tonight?