

**Transition:**

Jesus shares a parable of the wedding feast, emphasizing that the invitation into the Kingdom is and has been rejected! Then the Sadducees come to try and trick Jesus regarding the resurrection. He corrects and poses His own question, “whose Son is the Messiah?” The Pharisees are left speechless when Jesus tells them David calls Him Lord. We now come to the chapter where there are no longer questions, but woes and warnings of hypocrisy.

**Tell the story:**

Tell the story (with passion!) Do the best you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

**Rebuild the story:**

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Why is Jesus so stern with the Pharisees?
2. How do we keep ourselves from having the heart or mind of a Pharisee?

**Fundamental:**

The justice of God – The justice of God is manifested in His loving righteousness and hating iniquity. He will visit upon sinners the punishment due to their sins, but also bestow upon the righteous the reward due for their faithfulness. God demonstrates His justice by always keeping His promises.

1. Is Christ the center of your life, or are you trying to fit Him in for your own happiness?
2. How can we escape “being sentenced to hell...”? (John 6:28; Acts 16:31)
3. Why are we quick to speak of the love of God, but not His judgment?

**Homework/Challenge:**

1. Do a spiritual checkup in Small Group – examine the woes in this chapter and ask God to show you if you have lived like a Pharisee (2 Cor 13:5).
2. Please read Matthew 24 in preparation for next week.

**Discipleship Tip:**

It is important to really know your flock when it comes to this chapter. Jesus was intimately aware of the Pharisees, which is why He could be stern with them. Unless you have spent adequate time with them and have shed tears.

**Prayer:**

Pray for each other one by one.