

May 31, 2009
Week 35

Kingdom People Create Open Doors
Matthew 23

Group or Family Study Guide

1. In your work/home context, are there certain things that really get you worked up? (Hot buttons?)

2. Read Matthew 23:1-12

3. What are the hot buttons (issues) that Jesus brings out in the open?

4. Define:
Moses seat

Phylacteries

Place of honor

Rabbi

Woe

5. Read Matthew 23:13-32

6. What's the real inside issue with each of these woes? What's really going on? Why is there a problem? Aren't they doing good things?

A. Verse 13 – You shut the door (don't recognize Jesus)

B. Verse 15 – You reproduce poorly (see Galatians 6:7-10)

C. Verses 16-22 – Incorrect swearing (“Let your yes be yes ...” Matthew 5:37)

D. Verses 23-24 – Major on the minors (gnats & camels?)

Define: 1) Justice

2) Mercy

3) Faithfulness

E. Verses 25-26 – Image problems (define hypocrite)

F. Verses 27-28 – Secret Identities (What are white-washed tombs?)

G. Verses 29-32 – Like father, like son (Who would they kill next?)

7. Read Matthew 23:37-39 What is it about today's perception of Christianity or the Church that you lament over?

8. Pray for your church, it's leaders, one another.

For the hardcore group:

List the 7 woes. Then show a Kingdom Quest answer for each. What would Jesus have us do if these woes were true in our lives?

ller context: Romans 12:1-21.