

YOU MIGHT BE A PHARISEE

I. IF YOU EXPECT MIRACLES.

A. **Matthew 12:38-42; 16:1-4**

Having seen countless wonders already, they kept demanding more.

B. **1st Corinthians 1:22-25**

The gospel itself should be satisfactory.

II. IF YOU ELEVATE TRADITION ABOVE REVELATION.

A. **Matthew 15:1-9**

They bound tradition while ignoring and subverting commands of God.

B. **Colossians 2:8**

Tradition gives a sense of fulfillment while preventing obedience.

III. IF YOU HOLD OTHERS TO HIGHER STANDARDS THAN YOURSELF.

A. **Matthew 23:2-4**

They were strict toward others while lenient on themselves, being hypocritical.

B. **Romans 2:21-24**

Whatever one teaches another, he should practice himself.

IV. IF YOU CRAVE EXALTATION.

A. **Matthew 23:5-12, 25-28**

They wanted the appearance of righteousness without practicing righteousness.

B. **Galatians 1:10**

The purpose of the gospel is to please God and persuade men, not to please men and persuade God.

V. IF YOU DISRUPT OTHERS' SPIRITUAL PROGRESS.

A. *Matthew 23:13*

Not only did they disregard the gospel, but turned others away from it, too.

B. *Acts 13:45; 17:13*

Many instances of such behavior appear in the record of Acts.

VI. IF YOU LOVE MONEY.

A. *Matthew 23:14; Luke 16:13-15, 17*

Money was the goal, instead of a tool to achieve higher goals. Pursuing wealth, they took advantage of the weak.

B. *1st Timothy 6:9-10*

Loving money leads to bigger problems.

VII. IF YOU OVEREMPHASIZE MAKING CONVERTS.

A. *Matthew 23:15*

They recruited converts all over, but only secured damnation.

B. *1st Corinthians 1:17; 3:6*

If preaching is the goal, baptisms will follow, but if baptizing is the goal, the message may be compromised, or the commitment may not be understood.

VIII. IF YOU HONOR THE FAITHFUL DEAD WHILE OPPOSING THE FAITHFUL LIVING.

A. *Matthew 23:29-31*

While memorializing martyrs, they obstructed the efforts of John and Jesus.

B. *Philippians 3:17*

We should observe upstanding examples of role models among us.

IX. IF YOU ARE SELF-RIGHTEOUS.

A. *Luke 18:9-14*

They perceived others' faults, but not their own.

B. *James 4:6*

Pride results in distance between man and God.

X. IF YOU DON'T EVEN CARE YOU'RE WRONG.

A. John 11:45-48

They admitted Jesus' miracles, but perceived them a hindrance.

B. Acts 4:13-17

This antagonistic spirit is at work in the hearts of many who resist truth.

XI. IF YOU IMPOSE THE OLD TESTAMENT ON CHRISTIANS.

A. Acts 15:5

They pushed circumcision on Christians.

B. Galatians 5:1-6

Keeping Moses' law nullifies the efficacy of Christ's sacrifice!

XII. IF YOU REJECT BAPTISM.

A. Luke 7:29-30

They rejected John's baptism.

B. 1st Peter 3:20-21

The baptism in Christ that saves from sin is likened to Noah's salvation in that most reject it.