

Lost Religious People

Introduction

1. **The Bible has much to say about lost people.**
 - A. **Especially lost religious people. These are people that are religious, but religiously wrong.**

Pharisees

1. **Here we find a very religious sect of people. Turn to Matt 23.**
 - A. **Jesus called them children of hell!**

Matthew 23:15 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.

- B. **Why were these Pharisees lost?**

Matthew 23:3 "Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; *for they say, and do not do.*

- C. **They did their works for one main reason - to be seen of men!**

Matthew 23:5 But all their works they do to be seen by men.

- D. **The kingdom of God was shut up against man.**

Matthew 23:13 "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.

E. For a pretense (false show of something) they make long prayer.

Matthew 23:14 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation.

F. These Pharisees omitted what was really important.

Matthew 23:23 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.

G. These lost religious people strain at gnats.

Matthew 23:24 "Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!

H. Bottom line - just plain hypocrites!!

Matthew 23:28 "Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of **hypocrisy and lawlessness**.

1) Must LIVE it and Must OBEY it!**Another Pharisee****Luke 18:9-14**

1. He prayed, fasted, gave tithes, perhaps many evil things he did not do.

A. Why was he lost?

1) He trusted in himself that he was righteous (v9)!

2) He exalted himself (v14) above others.

2. Solomon wrote: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding" (Prov 3:5)

Saul of Tarsus

Acts 22:10-16

(The Road to Damascus)

1. **Saul was a very religious man but was not saved UNTIL he obeyed the whole counsel of God to include being baptized for remission of sins.**
2. **Paul wrote how confidence in the flesh alone does not save.**
Philippians 3:4-7
3. **He had a good conscience (Acts 23:1), was penitent (Acts 9:9), but he was still lost until he responded to the words of Ananias which said:**

Acts 22:16 'And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'

4. **As long as Paul continued to try and keep the law of Moses (the wrong law), he was lost.**

The Eunuch

Acts 8:25-39

1. **The Eunuch was religious - he went to worship (v 27).**
 - A. **However we know today that man can worship unacceptably**

Matthew 15:9 And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.

2. **He was a Bible reading man (v28).**
3. **But why was he lost?**
 - A. **He had not obeyed the gospel of plan of salvation.**
4. **Have you obeyed the gospel plan of salvation?**
 - A. **A zeal for God without knowledge will not be acceptable.**
Romans 10:1-3

Cornelius

1. **Cornelius was a devout man, he feared God, and gave much alms. He prayed to God (Acts 10:2).**
2. **He had a good reputation (Acts 10:22). But was not saved UNTIL he was baptized (Acts 10:48).**
 - A. **We must hear the word and respond accordingly.**

James 1:21-22 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

The Church at Laodicea

Revelation 3:14-22

1. **Why were they lost?**
 - A. **Lukewarm! They actually deceived themselves into thinking that they were saved because they “seemed” religious.**
2. **God wants us to give our all - not just part.**

Conclusion

1. **Many religious people will be disappointed at the judgment day.**

Matthew 7:21-23 “Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. “Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' “And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

2. **A religious person is not necessarily a saved person.**
 - A. **Only those who obey Jesus will have salvation.**

Hebrews 5:9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

