



## Tri-Village Sermon Discussion Questions

Topic: *Answering the Critic*

Text: Matthew 23

Service Date: February 9, 2025

Note: The questions are only a starting point for discussion. Don't hesitate to modify, adapt, or highlight only specific ones to fit your group and/or personal study.

### Getting Started

- The sermon opened talking about the failure of New Coke when it was introduced by Coca-Cola in 1985. What are some things you remember in the past that were introduced but didn't last long (i.e. a snack food, tv show, etc.)?

### Sermon Discussion

- What comes to mind when you hear the word "hypocrite"? How are they liked/disliked by those around them?
- Have you ever found yourself being hypocritical and had to re-adjust your attitude? What happened?
- How can Christians avoid hypocrisy by "practicing what we preach"? Essentially, what must we ensure we are practicing that we preach to other Christians and non-Christians?
- Christians are told to hold themselves to a certain standard. If you are a Christian, do you think that this is easy or difficult? What does it mean to hold yourself to a higher standard?
- Paul shared on Sundays, "Isn't it interesting how Jesus was full of mercy to some of the worst sinners- the adulterous woman, the greedy and rich young ruler, the sneaky tax collector, the woman who had been married five times. But when it came to those claiming to be religious, He scolded them with the grimmest of terms. He called them "fools", "hypocrites", "snakes"... Why would Jesus have acted differently between these sinners?"
- The sermon text this week (Matthew 23) shows how hypocrisy has been around a very long time- this is not a new issue or challenge. In what forms

do you see the same type of hypocrisy today among Christians as was present during Jesus' life?

- At what point should one Christian address another Christian if one has become so hypocritical that they don't realize it?
- How should we pray for those who seem to be hypocritical?

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**Have you or someone in your group experienced a Story of Life Change?**

We'd love to hear about it! In fact, one of Tri-Village's values is "Stories of Life Change". Visit [tri-village.org/yourstory](http://tri-village.org/yourstory) and share how God worked.