

Matthew 23:1-12 **Exalted Office – Exalted Title**

¹ Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, ² saying: "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. 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.

⁴ For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.

⁵ But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. ⁶ They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, ⁷ greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, 'Rabbi, Rabbi.'

⁸ "But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. ⁹ Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. ¹⁰ And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. ¹¹ But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. ¹² And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✚ The Scribes and Pharisees sit in the seat of authority.
 - ✧ Honor the authority of the office, but do not copy their behavior.
 - ✧ Their Oral Law traditions bind heavy burdens on the people that they themselves will not even touch.
 - ✧ Every thing they do is to impress men, because they are seeking honor and admiration from the masses.
 - ✧ They desire recognition and exalt themselves in the sight of men. This is a phenomenon quite common in the highly organized churches of the world today. God calls it hypocritical.
- ✚ Jesus wants His followers to have a servant's heart.
 - ✧ He was speaking to the multitude that followed Him and to His disciples.
 - ✧ Do not seek an exalted title or special honor among men.
 - ✧ The greatest in God's sight, is the one who serves and helps others to grow in their relationship with God and who helps to meet their needs as they go along. [[Matthew 20:26, 23:11, Mark 10:43-45, Luke 22:26-27](#)]
 - ✧ Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world. [[James 1:27](#)]
 - ✧ God's heart has always been for His people to live to help others in every way we are able. [[Isaiah 58:6-9, Zechariah 7:8-10, Micah 6:8](#)]
 - ✧ Our standing with God is demonstrated in what we do to serve others, not in what we acquire for ourselves.
- ✚ God is able to exalt the humble, and to humble the exalted.
 - ✧ We will not get to heaven with pride, but we will humbly acknowledge that we are only there by the grace and mercy of God.
 - ✧ To God is all the glory, praise, and honor for the things He has done to grant us Salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ our Savior.
 - ✧ It is better to receive our honor from God than from men. [[Romans 2:29](#)]