

# A Word to Religious Pretenders

*“Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known” — Jesus*

## Sermon Questions

1. Jesus’ words of warning can harden or soften the human heart. (Yes/No)
2. A “woe” denotes deep, inconsolable misery due to God’s \_\_\_\_\_.
3. List the 8 marks of the religious pretender:
  - i. Religious pretenders notice the \_\_\_\_\_ actions of others, forming a judgment but not always saying it.
  - ii. Religious pretenders focus on externals in themselves, neglecting the inner \_\_\_\_\_ and its corruption.
  - iii. Religious pretenders neglect \_\_\_\_\_, mercy, and love—the weightier matters of the law.
  - iv. Religious pretenders \_\_\_\_\_ status, fame, approval, attention, and favor from men.
  - v. Religious pretenders deceive and \_\_\_\_\_ many who do not know their true state.
  - vi. Religious pretenders \_\_\_\_\_ from others what they do not do themselves.
  - vii. Religious pretenders continue a long line of cowardly hypocrisy, revering past \_\_\_\_\_ while reviling the present.
  - viii. Religious pretenders hinder \_\_\_\_\_ from entering the kingdom and lock themselves out.
4. Pretenders stand out when a church pursues true godliness from the heart. (Yes/No)
5. Jesus Christ forgives the \_\_\_\_\_ but condemns the unrepentant pretender.
6. Pretenders must know that all \_\_\_\_\_ are temporary.

## Discussion/Meditation Questions

1. Do any of Jesus warnings to the religious hypocrites hit close to home? Which one of these warnings comes closest to describing you?
2. The disciples are warned about hypocrites. What should you do if you suspect someone else is a religious pretender? How can they be lovingly warned while you take heed of their influence?
3. What doctrines must the religious pretender know? Consider the attributes of God and his work of judgment as a place to start.
4. What was your most significant take-away from this passage and sermon? Share this with another brother or sister in the fellowship.

## Extras for the Children

What song did you enjoy the most today? \_\_\_\_\_

What did you learn about God today? \_\_\_\_\_

What words did you not know today? \_\_\_\_\_

