



Jesus Shows How the Authorities Crave the Fruit of Praise

Thus says the Lord Yahweh: Remove the turban, and take off the crown; this shall be no more the same; exalt that which is low, and abase that which is high – Ezekiel 21:26

[Matthew 23:1-12, Jerusalem, Tuesday]
Then, *in the hearing of all the people*, Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to his disciples, saying *in his teaching*, “The scribes and the Pharisees sat on Moses’ seat. All things therefore whatever they tell you to observe, observe and do, but don’t do their works; for they say, and don’t do. For they bind heavy burdens that are grievous to be borne, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not lift a finger to help them. But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad, enlarge the fringes of their garments, *like to walk in long robes*, and love the place of honor at feasts, the

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best seats in the synagogues, the salutations in the marketplaces, and to be called ‘Rabbi, Rabbi’ by men, *those who devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense make long prayers*. These will receive greater condemnation. But don’t you be called ‘Rabbi,’ for one is your teacher, the Christ, and all of you are brothers. Call no man on the earth your father, for one is your Father, he who is in heaven. Neither be called masters, for one is your master, the Christ. But he who is greatest among you will be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.” [Mark 12:38-40, Luke 20:45-47]

1. What’s wrong with the scribes and Pharisees? How are you similar? What can you avoid?
2. What must you “observe”? What humbled you? Exalted? How will you be humble today?
3. Father, you are the true master, help me not make myself or another a master and instead...