

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Satan's Academy Award

SERMON REFERENCE: Matthew 6:1-8

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1682

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Once a year, the Hollywood actors and actresses have a convocation in which they give awards called the Academy Awards.
 - i) But the biggest actors are not in Hollywood.
 - (1) They are in churches.
 - (a) The Bible calls them hypocrites.
- b) Matthew 6:1-2
 - i) The word “seen” in the Greek language is the word from which we get our word “theater.”
 - ii) The word “hypocrite” here is the word for an actor, a play actor.
 - (1) The Greeks had actors in their plays who not only used makeup, but they also used a mask.
 - (a) If they wanted to be happy, then they would put on the happy face.
 - (b) If they wanted to be sad, then they would put on the sad face.
 - (c) If they wanted to be angry, then they would put on the angry face.
- c) Matthew 6:5
- d) Matthew 6:16
- e) It is a phony world that we live in.
 - i) All of us are living in a world that is surrounded by fantasy, hypocrisy, and make-believe.
 - ii) Make-believeism is not new to our day and age.
 - (1) It was there in the day of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- f) The greatest hunger in men’s hearts is for reality, and the greatest need is for reality.
- g) There are many cardboard Christians, plastic preachers, and pseudo saints; people who are simply playing a game.
 - i) The world is turned off by them, and so is our Lord.
 - (1) We should be as well.
- h) The greatest argument for Christianity and the greatest argument against Christianity is the life of a Christian.
- i) In the Gospels, the Lord Jesus Christ dealt with sinners, thieves, harlots, prostitutes, tax gatherers, and so forth.
 - i) Jesus had nothing but words of compassion, forgiveness, and love for them.
 - ii) In fact, Jesus was crucified because He was a friend of sinners.
 - (1) He kept company with sinners.
 - (a) If He didn’t, then He would have nothing to do with us.
- j) The Lord reserved His most severe words for those we call hypocrites.
 - i) Matthew 7:15
 - ii) Matthew 23:27
- k) In today’s message, we will look at Matthew 6 and the shameful display of hypocrisy, the sinister danger of hypocrisy, and the serious discernment of hypocrisy.

2) THE SHAMEFUL DISPLAY OF HYPOCRISY (MATTHEW 6:1-8)

a) Hypocrisy in the area of our deeds:

i) This refers to alms giving.

ii) Jesus gave a warning.

(1) Matthew 6:1-4

(a) The Lord was not saying that we are not to give to the poor.

(i) Matthew 5:42

(ii) Over and over again in the Bible, we are commanded to give to the poor and commended when we do give to the poor.

1. Psalm 41:1

(iii) Every day we should look for ways to minister to those who are less blessed than we are.

(b) The Lord was not talking about what these men did, but the manner and motive in which they did it.

(i) They did it to be seen of men.

(ii) It was a charade; it was a game.

(iii) They were actors trying to get the praise of men and the glory of men through their giving.

(c) The Pharisees had developed a little silver trumpet.

(i) When they were ready to give money to the poor, they would go into the marketplace where there would be a lot of people.

(ii) They would blow the trumpet, and the poor would come.

(iii) Others in the marketplace would turn their attention to this theater.

(iv) Then, the Pharisees would give alms to the poor, and everyone could see them.

1. They did this to be seen of men, not because they cared for the poor.

2. They did this to have the glory of men.

iii) Matthew 6:3

(1) In this verse, Jesus was not talking about giving gifts to your church, but He spoke of spontaneous and unplanned acts of giving to those who have need.

(a) This is when we are moved with compassion, and we give in an uncalculated way.

(2) When our left hand knows what our right hand is doing, we are counting our money.

(a) It is no longer spontaneous.

iv) Don't give to be seen of men.

v) We should not be so exacting when we give.

(1) Let it come out of our hearts.

(a) God will see, and God will never forget it.

b) Hypocrisy in the area of our devotions:

i) Matthew 6:5-8

- (1) “Vain repetitions” in this passage means “empty language.”
 - ii) It is not wrong to give in public, and it is not wrong to pray in public.
 - (1) The Bible encourages and commands us to pray in public.
 - (2) Acts 4:24
 - (3) The question is not why we pray in public, but what is our motive?
 - (4) We should never be ashamed to pray in public.
 - (a) If you are used to thanking God for your food at home, then thank God for your food in a public restaurant.
 - (b) Don't be ashamed of anyone seeing you pray.
 - iii) Jesus is not opposed to public prayer.
 - (1) What He is opposed to is praying to be seen of men.
 - iv) Why do we pray?
 - (1) We do not pray to impress God.
 - (a) It is not the logic of our prayer nor the language of our prayer that impresses God.
 - (i) Matthew 6:7
 - (ii) We do not have to be a poet in order to pray.
 - 1. Can you talk to another human being?
 - a. Then, can you not talk to God?
 - 2. We do not have to use King James English in order to pray.
 - (iii) God is not impressed by the language of our prayers.
 - (b) It is not the length of our prayer that impresses God.
 - (i) We are not heard for our much speaking.
 - (2) We do not pray to inform God.
 - (a) Matthew 6:8
 - (b) We do not tell God anything that God does not already know.
 - (c) Nothing ever occurs to God.
 - (i) God knows it all.
 - 1. He knows what we need.
 - 2. He knows what we are going to say before we say it.
 - (3) We pray to invite God and to enjoy God.
 - (a) God could do it without us.
 - (i) God already knows what we need.
 - (b) We ask Him because He has given us the privilege to fellowship with Him and to partnership with Him in prayer.
 - (c) Prayer is one of the greatest acts of love and kindness that God could ever extend to us.
 - (i) God allows us and enables us to join with Him in the ruling and the administration of the universe and the affairs of men.
 - (d) God knows exactly what we have need of before we ask Him, but He enables us to be one with Him.
 - (e) God teaches us a dependency upon Him and a fellowship with Him.
 - (i) God will not force Himself upon us.
- c) Hypocrisy in the area of our disciplines:

- i) Matthew 6:16-18
 - (1) In verse 16, “they disfigure their faces” means that they wear a mask.
 - ii) Fasting is right and proper.
 - (1) There is nothing wrong with a public fast.
 - (a) In the Bible, public fasts were often called.
 - (b) There is nothing wrong with fasting and letting other people know that we are fasting.
 - (2) But do not fast to be seen of men.
 - iii) Fasting is doing without food and other pleasures for spiritual reasons.
 - iv) Jesus did not say, “If you fast,” but, “When you fast.”
 - (1) He expected us to fast.
 - v) We can fast with the wrong motive and with the wrong method.
 - (1) The Pharisees would disfigure their faces.
 - (2) They would put on ashes and put dirt on their faces.
 - (3) They would tear their clothes.
 - (4) They would go around with a gloomy look on their faces.
 - (5) They were trying to act religious and trying to act humble.
 - (a) If someone acts humble, then they are very proud.
 - (b) No one is to act humble.
 - (i) If you act in any way, then you are an actor.
 - vi) We should be natural and normal.
 - (1) We are not to be posturing and posing.
 - (2) We are not going through life trying to look holy or trying to act holy.
 - (3) We just simply are who we are by the grace of God.
- 3) THE SINISTER DANGER OF HYPOCRISY (MATTHEW 23:13-15)
- a) In Matthew 6:5-6 and Matthew 6:16, our Lord tells us that people do this to be seen of men.
 - b) Hypocrisy is rooted in idolatry.
 - i) The hypocrite is more interested in the approval of man than he is the smile of God.
 - c) Hypocrisy deceives.
 - i) People who see a hypocrite are deceived by him.
 - (1) They think he is something that he is not.
 - ii) Not only does the hypocrite deceive others, but he also deceives himself.
 - (1) They play this role so long that many of them do not know that they are hypocrites.
 - (a) It is their way of life.
 - (b) There may be some who are very faithful to the church, who give their money, who teach Sunday school, but they have been hypocrites for so long that they do not know that they are hypocrites.
 - (2) If the hypocrite is a religious leader like the Pharisees were, then we have this terrible tragedy of the blind leading the blind.

- iii) Matthew 23:13-15
 - (1) Not only is the hypocrite going to Hell, but he is also taking others with him.
 - (2) It is bad enough to go to Hell as a pure pagan, but the hypocrite is going to have the greater damnation.
 - (3) A proselyte is a convert to your religion.
 - (a) The Pharisees would go over land and sea in order to get someone to join their religion.
- d) Hypocrisy defrauds.
 - i) Matthew 6:2
 - ii) Matthew 6:5
 - iii) Matthew 6:16
 - (1) In these verses, the word “reward” is a technical word that means “payment in full.”
 - (a) Like when someone does some work for you and gives you a bill, you pay them and write “Paid in full” on the bill.
 - iv) If you do things to be seen of men, if it is a theater, then you are an actor.
 - (1) You do it, and they applaud.
 - (a) That is your pay; God writes down, “Paid in full.”
 - (b) There is no more reward.
 - (i) You have defrauded yourself.
 - (ii) When you stand before the Lord, there will be no reward.
 - (iii) You have cheated yourself at the judgment seat of Christ.
 - v) Most of what we will be rewarded for are things that we have forgotten.
 - (1) If we say, “Look what I did, God,” then God will forget it.
 - (2) If we forget it, then God remembers it.
 - vi) Matthew 25:35-40
 - (1) In this passage, the Lord speaks of the time when He comes to reward His saints.
 - vii) The kind of service that is rewarded is the service that is just natural.
 - (1) It flows out of us.
 - (2) We are not aware of it.
 - (a) You will not be keeping a record, but God keeps a record.
 - (i) Not a cup of cold water will be given in the name of a disciple but what a person will receive his reward.
- e) Hypocrisy destroys.
 - i) Matthew 7:22-23
 - ii) Hypocrisy is iniquity.
 - (1) Acting in religion is iniquity.
 - (2) God hates it.
 - iii) It will destroy your soul in Hell.
 - iv) The worst form of badness is human goodness when human goodness is a substitute for the new birth.

- v) The people spoken of in Matthew 7:22-23 did not lose their religion; they never had it.
 - (1) They were pseudo saints, cardboard Christians, and false apostles.
 - (2) Beware and take heed that this is not true about you.
 - vi) The problem with many churchgoers is that they have been starched and ironed, but they have never been washed.
 - (1) They have a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof.
- 4) THE SERIOUS DISCERNMENT (MATTHEW 6:1)
- a) Matthew 6:1
 - i) "Take heed."
 - b) Many times, the hypocrite does not realize that he is a hypocrite.
 - c) Is there some hypocrisy in you?
 - i) Have you failed to obey God because you wondered what other people would think about it?
 - ii) Have you failed to praise God or to do something that you felt you ought to do because you were wondering what others would think?
 - (1) Then, you are more concerned about men than God.
 - iii) How often do you do service for God that goes undetected and that you do not tell anyone about?
 - iv) Is your private life consistent with your public image?
 - v) Are you wounded when others get credit for what you did?
 - vi) Have you ever stopped serving, stopped giving, or stopped attending because you were not recognized?
 - (1) If you quit, then you want the praise of men more than the praise of God.
 - (2) God knows.
 - (a) Is that not enough?
 - (b) Isn't it enough for God to say, "Well done"?
 - vii) Do you accept praise for things that you have not done?
 - (1) Do you take credit when you know credit is not there?
 - (2) If so, then there is a little Pharisee in you.
 - viii) Are you defeated and discouraged by the hypocrisy of another?
 - (1) It is only the hypocrite who is defeated by hypocrites.
 - d) Jesus knew there were hypocrites.
 - i) One of the twelve apostles was a hypocrite.
 - ii) There always have been hypocrites.
 - iii) There always will be hypocrites.
 - e) There is no hypocrite who should keep you from serving Jesus.
 - i) If you know God personally and He is real to you, then you know that while they (the hypocrites) are wrong, God is not wrong.
 - f) The person who hides behind a hypocrite is worse off than the hypocrite.
 - i) You cannot hide behind something unless you are smaller than what you are hiding behind.

- ii) If there is a hypocrite between you and God, then he is closer to God than you are.
- g) Every hypocrite is a testimony to the Gospel.
 - i) Men do not counterfeit gum wrappers.
 - (1) They counterfeit twenty-dollar bills because of the worthwhileness and the validity of the real.
 - ii) Every counterfeit Christian is a tribute to what we believe.
 - h) Have you ever been defeated or discouraged because of a hypocrite?
 - i) If you have, then it is because you know that what you have is not real.
 - ii) But if you know that what you have is real, then you can do the following:
 - (1) You can pity the hypocrite.
 - (2) You can pray for the hypocrite.
 - (3) You can witness to the hypocrite.
 - (a) But you never stop serving God because of the hypocrite.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) Is there a little Pharisee in you?
- b) Have you been a play actor?
 - i) You don't have to be a wild, wicked person.
 - ii) Many play actors don't realize that they have been playing a game.
 - (1) They have never really known reality to know the Lord.
 - (a) Do you know Him?
- c) Psalm 107:2
- d) Mark 8:38
- e) Matthew 10:32
- f) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- g) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16