



## Going Deeper into

### Matthew 23:8-12 – “Escaping Religious Arrogance”

1. **It is natural to take pride in learning something new or doing a good job, but when it causes us to elevate ourselves at the expense of others, it can become prideful and arrogant.**

What are some experiences or things you have learned since becoming a Christian that you have genuinely been able to take pride in?

As you think about your temperament and personality, what are some areas where you need to be careful not to develop a spirit of arrogance?

Read Philippians 3:3-8a. Paul had plenty of reasons for pride and arrogance, and yet kept his focus on something greater than his own abilities. What would help you cultivate an attitude like Paul’s in your life?

***Pray: Lord, there are many things I can take pride in, and I do desire to be pleased with my actions and growth in Jesus Christ. Help me to keep it grounded in who you are and not to become arrogant in my learning, but to remain humble as your children and Jesus’ disciple. Amen.***

2. **The Pharisees enjoyed receiving honor and special greetings in public, but Jesus said that the greatest among us would be our servant.**

We place a lot of value on numbers – how many people attend an event, how many friends we have on Facebook, etc. What are the positive and negative aspects of focusing on numbers?

Does our culture value serving others or being popular and receiving special treatment more? Which do you place the greater emphasis on in your life?

As you think about spiritual leaders today, how do you see them serving others and humbling themselves?

***Pray: Heavenly Father, forgive us for focusing on things that do not matter, like popularity and celebrity. I lift up pastors and spiritual leaders to you, that they would be focused on serving others as you have served us. Help me to be a servant, too.***

**3. Jesus said that whoever humbles himself will be exalted; his life is a perfect example and guide for this truth. Read Philippians 2:5-11.**

In what ways did Jesus humble himself according to Philippians 2?

What inspiration do you receive for your own life as you consider how Jesus humbled himself?

Just as Jesus has been and will be exalted, how have you seen believers who humble themselves exalted by the Lord? How do you expect them to be exalted in the future?

***Pray: Heavenly Father, I thank you that you have already succeeded where you call us to follow, and that we have an example for our lives in Jesus. Help me to follow my Savior in word and deed, to humble myself and seek to be a servant instead of exalting myself for my own ends. Amen.***