



We warned that the opposite can also be true when our actions do not align with our faith and thus negatively influence others.

We read about such a case in **Matthew 23:1-12** when Jesus talked about how the Pharisees who taught the law were more focused on themselves than on leading people closer to God. They made themselves appear to be better and more righteous than the people they led making people feel as if they could never be good enough for God. They demanded special treatment and titles making their faith more about themselves than about God. Jesus said that they do not "practice what they preach" and they do everything "for people to see".

We said that the Pharisees professed to be the righteous leaders of Israel but their motivations were selfish and focused more on themselves than on God or the people they were leading. Since the Pharisees' actions did not line up with their teaching it created a negative influence that ended up driving away the very people they were supposed to be bringing closer to God.

We said that the world, and Satan, are quick to jump all over Christians when they are caught doing something sinful in order to turn their once positive influence into a negative influence to drive people away from God. We talked about a few of the more famous cases in the news.

We were reminded that while we are all sinners, saved by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, our actions do not make us 'good' or 'bad' in God's eyes. But, our Christ-like actions have the opportunity to positively influence others just as our un-Christ-like actions have the real chance to negatively influence them and drive them away from God.

We mentioned that the closer our own hearts are to Jesus, the easier it is to live a Christ-like life. Living a Christian life seems less of a 'burden' to us because as we draw closer to a relationship with God the more we want to do things out of our love for Him as opposed to just following a bunch of rules.

We ended by each thinking about something that we are now doing in our lives that may not line up with our Christian faith and has the opportunity to cause a negative influence on others. We prayed about it and said to think about how we can better align our actions with our faith so that we can

be the positive influence on the world that Jesus wants us to be.

Join us next time as we finish up our series on what Jesus had to say about influence.

## Upcoming Events



### Winter Jam 2015 Promo

### Winter Jam!!!

**Get your tickets now** for Winter Jam 2015 coming on Friday, November 6th. Ten great Christian bands all on one stage. This year we are going VIP. Ticket price is \$30 pre-paid only.

A limited number of group VIP tickets have been purchased and are now available from Chris or Michelle in the youth room for \$30 each (cash or check).

Concert is Friday, November 6th. **We will be leaving LWA by 3:30pm as a group.**

Our VIP tickets get us early admission for the best seats as well as a Q&A session with the artists & more!

Follow [THIS LINK](#) for a list of artists performing.

**FX15-BeU Youth Conference!**  
Mark your calendars now for the biggest most

**exciting Youth Conference ever!**

**November 12th through November 14th  
at Living Word in Mesa**

Lots of fun activities for Junior High and High School students with amazing guest speakers and performers each day. Invite all of your friends!

**More details to come...Mark your calendars now!**

Check out our [Facebook Page](#) For more information!

**Bible verses referenced in this lesson:** Matthew 23:1-12

Let us know if you have any questions.

Have a blessed Week,

Chris & Michelle Miller  
1 Youth Ministry

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