

Greek Readings
Series A, Proper 26
Matt. 23:1–12

- **Verse 1**
 - What is the meaning of Τότε? (BDAG, p. 1012) _____. How might it be used grammatically here? (cf. 4:1; BDAG, p. 1012; BDF, N§459(2)) _____.
 - Notice that at the end of last week’s lesson there was a definite shift away from the scribes and Pharisees (Mt. 22:46); in this lesson the teaching is delivered “to the crowds and his disciples” (Mt. 23:1). What significance, if any, might this detail contribute to our appreciation of the present text? _____.
- **Verse 2**
 - Parse ἐκάθισαν. _____. The use of Μωϋσῆς appears several times in the gospel of Matthew (cf. Mt. 8:4; 17:3, 4, 7, 8; 22:24; 23:2). Considering these passages, what might it mean that the scribes and Pharisees Ἐπὶ τῆς Μωϋσέως καθέδρας ἐκάθισαν? _____.
 - The phrase οἱ γραμματεῖς καὶ οἱ Φαρισαῖοι appears several times in Matthew’s gospel. (cf. 5:20; 12:38; 15:1) How do these passages influence our interpretation of this pericope? _____.
- **Verse 3**
 - Jesus exhorts his hearers to listen to the scribes and Pharisees here. In light of the preceding passage regarding the scribes and Pharisees, how is it possible for Jesus to make this statement? _____.
 - Parse πάντα ὅσα. _____. How does this contribute to our understanding of what Jesus exhorts from his hearers? _____.
 - Parse εἴπωσιν. _____. Give the dictionary entry. _____.
 - What is the meaning of τηρεῖτε? (cf. BDAG, p.1002, 3; TDNT, 8:143) _____. How do the other uses of τηρέω in Matthew’s gospel help us to understand its meaning? (cf. Mt. 19:17; 28:20) _____.
 - Parse ποιεῖτε. _____. What is a proper translation of μὴ ποιεῖτε? (cf. Voelz, 2 edn., 219; 3 edn., 200) _____.
 - How is one to reconcile Jesus statements in v.3b with 3a? (cf. 15:6-7; Rom. 2:21-24) _____.
- **Verse 4**
 - What may be the reference of φορτία βαρέα? (cf. 15:3, 6) _____. Explain why this is may be helpful for understanding this passage? _____.
 - Parse κινήσαι. _____. What is its meaning? (cf. Prov. 17:13; Rev. 2:5; 6:14; BDAG, p.545, 1) _____.
 - What does Jesus intend by including the phrase τῶ δακτύλῳ αὐτῶν? _____.
 - How does v.4 reflect Jesus saying in 11:28? _____.
- **Verse 5**
 - Parse θεαθῆναι. _____. What type of construction is this? (cf. Voelz, 2 edn, 117f.; 3 edn, 103f.) _____.
 - Φυλακτήρια is a NT hapax. What does it mean and how is it related to Ex. 13:9, 16; Dt. 6:8; 11:18? (cf. BDAG, p.1068) _____.
 - What is the meaning of κράσπεδα? (cf. BDAG, p.564, 2) _____. How does this relate to Num. 15:37-39 and Dt. 22:12? _____.

- Πλατύνουσιν occurs in the Gospels only here and μεγαλύνουσιν only three times. What do these words mean and how do they help to emphasize Jesus' point? (cf. BDAG, p.823; p.623, 1) _____.
- **Verse 6**
 - Describe the meaning of τὴν πρωτοκλισίαν ἐν τοῖς δείπνοις. (cf. Luke 14:7-8; BDAG, p. 892) _____.
 - Describe the meaning of τὰς πρωτοκαθεδρίας ἐν ταῖς συναγωγαῖς. (cf. BDAG, p.892; Jas. 2:1-4) _____.
- **Verse 7**
 - What is the meaning of Ῥαββί? (cf. BDAG, 902) _____. Why would the scribes and Pharisees have liked this term so much? _____.
- **Verse 8**
 - What is the referent of ὑμεῖς? _____.
 - Parse κληθῆτε. _____. How is μὴ κληθῆτε to be properly translated? (cf. Voelz, 2 edn. 220; 3 edn.202) _____.
 - Who is the ὁ διδάσκαλος to which Jesus refers? _____. Since the church has teachers in Jesus' stead, how does the phrase πάντες δὲ ὑμεῖς ἀδελφοί ἔστε help us to understand this teaching? _____.
- **Verse 9**
 - In some versions the first ὑμῶν is instead ὑμῖν (D Θ ita,aur,b,c,d,e, etc.). How does the variant affect one's translation of this verse? _____.
 - What is the meaning of ὑμῶν ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς? _____.
 - The phrase ὁ πατὴρ ὁ οὐράνιος appears several times in Matthew's gospel (cf. 5:48; 6:14, 26, 32; 15:13; 18:35). What does Jesus appear to mean by this observation (i.e., is it judgment or grace, and why do you think so?) _____.
- **Verse 10**
 - Some editors delete verse 10, thinking that the idea occurs already in Ῥαββί of v.8. But what does καθηγητής (hapax in the NT) really mean? (The big LSJ lists "leader," i.e., professor; also, this word derives from καθηγέομαι (LSJ 5: lead the way; instruct, teach). So what is Jesus' point? _____.
 - What is the meaning of ὁ Χριστός and what aspects of Christology are associated with this title? _____.
 - What do vv.8-10 teach the disciples about their future work? _____.
- **Verse 11**
 - Parse ἔσται. _____.
 - Describe the relationship between μείζων and διάκονος. (cf. 20:26-27) _____.
- **Verse 12**
 - What type of condition is: ὅστις ... ὑψώσει ... ταπεινωθήσεται? (cf. Voelz, 2 edn., 199; 3 edn. 182) _____.
 - When will the ταπεινωθήσεται and the ὑψωθείσεται take place? _____.
 - How does Jesus' description in Phil. 2:8-9 typify this? _____.
 - What does this mean for the disciples and their future work? _____.

Integration of Meaning

Come up with a sermon title and two to three supporting points.