

### The Gospel according to Matthew

## **P**HARISEES, **S**ADDUCEES & **S**CRIBES

*(After reading each of the following referenced Scriptures, write on a separate sheet of paper the answer. After completing this exercise you will gain further insight into the role and character of these various groups.)*

Matthew chapter 3 first introduces us to the Pharisees and the Sadducees. They were part of the religious and the political ruling class of Israel. Although they are often coupled together in the Scriptures, because of their similarities, they have distinct differences. The Scribes are another group that is frequently mentioned in the Gospels. We must make it our goal to not be like these groups, and to be on guard to not let our relationship with God be reduced to a list of legalistic rules and rituals; such as theirs was. Also they were persistent persecutors of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Matthew 3, John the Baptist rebukes and warns the Pharisees and Sadducees. The Lord Jesus continues with words of rebuke and condemnation towards them throughout Matthew.

1. Matthew 3:7. What does John the Baptist call the Pharisees and Sadducees?
2. Matthew 5:20. What warning does Jesus give us in regards to them?
3. Matthew 9:11. What question did they ask the Disciples concerning Jesus?
4. Matthew 9:14. What religious action did the Pharisees do often?
5. Matthew 12:14. What did the Pharisees scheme to do?
6. Matthew 12:24. Who did the Pharisees accuse Jesus of being in league with?
7. Matthew 12:38, 39. The Scribes and Pharisees asked Jesus to show them a sign. What was His response to them?
8. Matthew 15:1, 2. What tradition did the Scribes and Pharisees accuse the Disciples of not doing?
9. Matthew 16:1 – 4. What was Jesus' ultimate response to them?
10. Matthew 16:6 – 12. Three times, Jesus tells His disciples to "beware of the leaven of bread" of the Pharisees and Sadducees. According to Matthew 16:12, what exactly was He talking about?
11. Matthew 21:45, 46. What was the reaction of the Chief Priest and Pharisees to the parables of Jesus?
12. Matthew 22:15. How did the Pharisees seek to trap Jesus?
13. Matthew 22:23. What did the Sadducees not believe?
14. Matthew 22:34. What did Jesus do to the Sadducees?
15. Matthew 22:41, 42. What did Jesus ask the Pharisees?
16. Matthew 22:46. What was their response?
17. Matthew 23:13, 14, 15, 23, 25, 27 and 29. In each of these verses, Jesus calls the Scribes and Pharisees what?
18. Matthew 27:62, 63. Instead of honoring and worshipping Jesus Christ, what did the Chief Priest and Pharisees call Jesus?