

## Study Notes and Questions for Matthew Chapter 23

- How would you define the overall theme of this chapter?
- Why did Jesus say, “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat...”
- According to Matthew 23:1–4, what did Jesus tell the crowd regarding the authority of the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law?
- **Study Note:** Phylacteries (23:5). Boxes containing Scripture verses worn by pious Jews on their foreheads and arms.
- Read **Numbers 15:37–41** and **Deuteronomy 6:8**, the texts that inspired the tassels and phylacteries. What was the original intent of these commands?
- Jesus says that the Pharisees “do not practice what they preach” and that “everything they do is for people to see.” Could these statements ever describe us? How can we solve the problem of living differently from our beliefs?
- **Matthew 23:16–22** talks about foolish oaths. How did the “blind guides” distort the Bible’s teaching here?
- What should the Religious Leaders have done both in regard to tithing and “the more important matters of the law”?
- If Jesus were suddenly to appear on the American church scene today, do you think He might pronounce any “woes” upon it? If so, what might they be?