Listen carefully to the Bible reading
from Matthew 23 verses 1 to 12

Jesus is in Jerusalem. The Pharisees and religious leaders
had been trying to catch him out. But they couldn't!
Now they didn't dare to ask him any more questions.

Who is Jesus speaking to in this chapter? (verse 1)

_____

Listen to what Jesus says about the Pharisees.
Use the words to complete the sentences below.

pretend	God's law	don't	love

The Pharisees tell people to obey _____

but they _____ obey it themselves!

They _____ to love God and his law

but they don't really _____ him at all.

People like this who pretend to do one thing but really do
something else are called HYPOCRITES

So what does Jesus tell the crowd and his disciples to do?
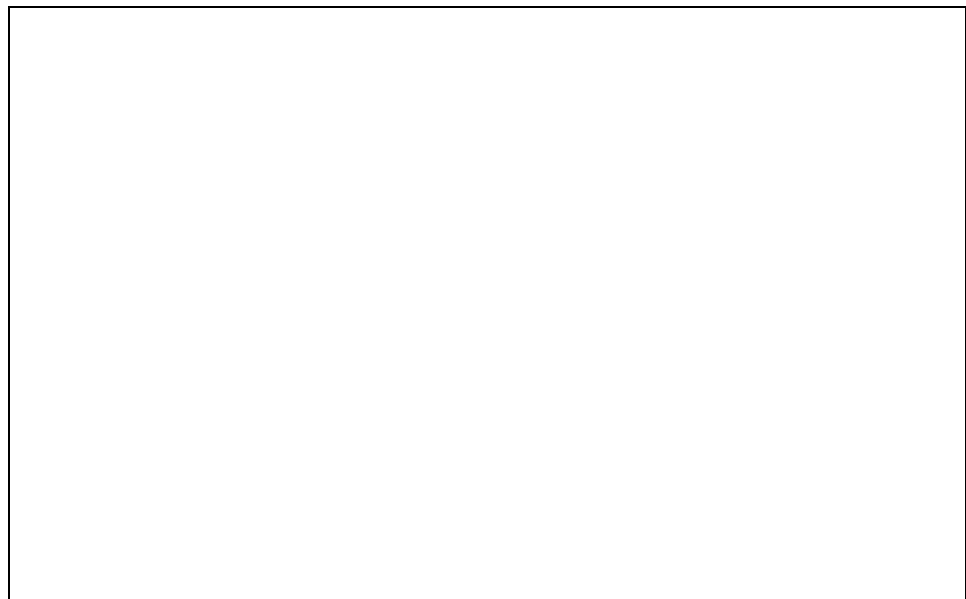(Look at verse 3 if you need a clue)

To DO the things the Pharisees…   •   •   …DO

But NOT the things the Pharisees…   •   •   …SAY

Read verse 6. What do the Pharisees love to do?

_____

_____

Can you draw what this might look like?

Why do you think the Pharisees like this so much?

_____

_____

Should followers of Jesus be like the Pharisees? Yes / No

What words best describe the Pharisee and the way a true follower of Jesus should be?
Copy the words and write them on the correct person.

Pharisees   **Follower of Jesus**

Kind
Proud
Show off
Helpful
Humble
Boastful
Honest
Generous
Selfish
Hypocrite

Look at the names below. Colour in the ones a Pharisee would say is the most important. Use a different colour for those which should really be the most important.

ME   God   ME

ME   ME   Jesus

Who else is important for us to think of before ME?

_____

Jesus has lots to say about the Pharisees because they were the leaders. They should know better.
Even worse, they were leading other people away from God!

How do you think God feels about the Pharisees and religious leaders?

_____

Later in this chapter Jesus is going to have some strong words to say about the Pharisees. They were in big trouble!

The Pharisees did lots of TALKing about obeying God, but they didn't do much DOing.

Think about what you could DO today or this week to be the kind of follower Jesus is talking about. Think of two things you could DO to serve others. Write them down.

1. _____

_____

2. _____

_____

"Whoever exalts himself
will be humbled,
and whoever humbles himself
will be exalted." Matthew 23v12