

# Matthew 23:1

<https://thebiblesays.com/commentary/matt/matt-23/matthew-231/>

*After the religious leaders stop debating with Jesus, He begins to address His disciples, as the crowds listen on.*

The parallel accounts of this event are found in Mark 12:37b and Luke 20:45.

After *Jesus's* series of confrontations with the religious authorities where He spoke parables against them, Matthew notes a new section of material with the simple phrase *Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to His disciples.*

What immediately followed was:

- a series of warnings and woes against the Pharisees (Matthew 23:2-36);
- a lament of Jerusalem (Matthew 23:37);
- teachings about Christ's return, the perilous times His return will take place in, and how to prepare for it (Matthew 24:1-51); and
- three extended parables about His return and the judgment (Matthew 25:1-46).

The later two of these chapters, chapters 24 and 25 are often referred to as the "Olivet Discourse."

Jesus said these things, not specifically to the Pharisees and Sadducees, but *to His disciples and to the listening crowds.* Luke 20:45 indicates that His message was directed *to His disciples*, "while all the people were listening." Mark says that "the large crowd enjoyed listening to Him" (Mark 12:37). In any case, what *Jesus* said in Matthew 23-25 was said to a friendly or neutral audience rather than a hostile one which was the case for much of the previous two chapters.

## **Biblical Text**

**Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to His disciples,**