

THE OPPONENTS OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

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| 1. Scribes | Mark 2:6 |
| 2. Pharisees | Matthew 9:11 |
| 3. Sadducees | Matthew 22:23-34 |
| 4. Herodians | Mark 3:6; 8:15; Matthew 22:15-22 |
| 5. Chief priests | Mark 14:1; Luke 20:19 |

GROUPINGS NOTED IN THE GOSPELS

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| 1. The scribes | Mark 2:6; Matthew 9:3; 12:38 |
| 2. The Pharisees | Matthew 9:11; 12:14, 24; 16:11; 22:15 |
| 3. The scribes and Pharisees | Matthew 12:38; 23:2 |
| 4. Chief priests and scribes | Mark 14:1; Luke 20:19 |
| 5. Chief priests and Pharisees | Matthew 21:45 |
| 6. Chief priests, scribes and elders | Luke 20:1 |
| 7. Sadducees | Matthew 22:23-34 |
| 8. Pharisees and Herodians | Mark 3:6; Matthew 22:15-22 |

WHO WERE THESE PEOPLE?

1. Scribes
 - a) They were like lawyers
 - b) They draft legal documents
 - i) Wills
 - ii) Divorce
 - iii) Contracts

- c) These were “experts” of the Mosaic Law
- d) They were professionals
- e) They took pride in their knowledge

2. Pharisees

- a) They believed in “separatism”
- b) They kept the traditions of Judaism
- c) They were landowners/ business people
- d) They took pride in their self-righteousness

3. Sadducees

- a) Jewish aristocrats
- b) They controlled the Temple
- c) They were part of the Sanhedrin Council
- d) They were rich and corrupt
- e) Their backers were the Romans
- f) They were highly influential
- g) They believed only in the law of Moses
- h) They rejected the doctrine of the resurrection

4. Chief priests

- a) Priests work in the Temple
- b) There were many of them
- c) The chief priests were those who were in charge of the priests

5. Herodians

- a) More of a political group
- b) They were opposed to the Pharisees
- c) They wanted to ensure that the Herodian dynasty would last
- d) The Lord warned about the leaven of Herod Mark 8:15

AN ANALYSIS OF THE LORD JESUS
Matthew 23

1. Scribes and Pharisees Matthew 23:2

- a) Sit in Moses' seat
 - i) They see themselves as the expert interpreters of the law of Moses
 - ii) Do what they tell you
 - iii) Don't do what they do
 - iv) They say but do not do Matthew 23:3
- b) They bind heavy burdens on people
 They will not move them with one finger Matthew 23:4
- c) Their works
 - i) Only to be seen by men Matthew 23:5a
 - ii) They make their phylacteries broad Matthew 23:5b
 - iii) They enlarge the borders of their garments Matthew 23:5c
- d) They love:
 - i) The best seats at feasts Matthew 23:6a
 - ii) The best seats in the synagogues Matthew 23:6b
 - iii) Greetings in the market places (recognition) Matthew 23:7
 - iv) Being called "Rabbi" Matthew 23:7

2. Pronouncement of Woe

- a) Hypocrisy Matthew 23:13, 14, 15, 16, 23, 25, 27, 29

- b) The wicked things they do:
 - i) Shutting up the kingdom of heaven Matthew 23:13a
 - ii) They do not go in Matthew 23:13b
 - iii) They do not allow people to enter Matthew 23:13c
 - iv) Devour widows' houses Matthew 23:14a
 - v) Make long prayers (for the widows) Matthew 23:14b
 - vi) Make proselytes Matthew 23:15a
 - vii) These proselytes are worse off Matthew 23:15b

- c) Spiritually blind guides Matthew 23:16a, 26

- d) Foolish and blind Matthew 23:17, 19

- e) Reptiles
 - i) Serpents Matthew 23:33a
 - ii) Brood of vipers Matthew 23:33b

3. Judgment

- a) Greater condemnation Matthew 23:14

- b) Condemnation of hell Matthew 23:33

- c) Your house is left desolate Matthew 23:38

WHY COULD THEY NOT LISTEN TO THE LORD JESUS CHRIST?

- 1. Hypocrisy Matthew 23:27-28
- | Refusal to repent

2. Blindness

Refusal to acknowledge blindness

John 9:40-41

3. Foolishness

They thought themselves wise

4. Unwilling to come to the Lord

They remained stubborn

Matthew 23:37