



NOTES



- What is the distinction between lying to someone and deceiving someone? Does the difference matter in any way?
- *Read Matthew 23:1-7.* What are the religious teachers and leaders doing that brings a rebuke and warning from Jesus?
- How are the teachers of the law and the Pharisees deceiving the people? What does this reveal about them and what they value?
- What are ways that people today manage their image and value appearance over substance, even in the Church? How does culture reinforce and reward this?
- When have you behaved differently or acted like someone you are not in order to be seen by others in the best possible light? Why did you do this?
- How might our subtle deceit of others through changing personas, embellishing accomplishments, and shifting blame lead to deceiving ourselves about ourselves (cf. Mt. 6:1; Gal. 6:3)? What happens in our hearts if we believe our own deceptions?
- How is Jesus an example for us of someone who did not engage in deception of others or self-deception?
- In what relationship in your life do you find yourself tempted to deceive another about yourself? What will you do this week to address this? How can your small group or others pray for you and support you in this through the coming week?



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