

October 23 Answers

- 1) The Pharisees consistently received Jesus' harshest rebukes, for they were the religious leaders of the people, and they were leading them **astray**. Jesus' woes to them teach us that: a) if we disregard **love** for God and **justice** for others, then our strict adherence to God's other commands is vain; b) if we refuse to seek **inward** cleansing and purity, then our outward washing is useless; c) if we act like a godly person while still clinging to self and sin, then our influence will **contaminate** others; d) if we demand **more** than God's Word requires, then our teaching hinders others; e) if we proclaim our own **ideas** instead of expounding Scripture, then our preaching has taken away the key to knowledge—God's Word.