1. Hypocrite:
   1. a person who pretends to have virtues, moral or religious beliefs, principles, etc., that he or she does not actually possess, especially a person whose actions belie stated beliefs.
   2. a person who feigns some desirable or publicly approved attitude, especially one whose private life, opinions, or statements belie his or her public statements.

Talk through this definition of hypocrite and explain what it means to you.

2. Take a look at the text and talk through the following:
   1-12 Hypocrites are concerned only with themselves.
   Self-absorbed, selfish, full of themselves.
   Love their titles
   And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!' I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

13-15 Nothing can be farther from the truth... except your disciples.
They were keeping people away from pleasing God and those who sought to enter His Kingdom were being redirected and misguided they were being taught not to follow Jesus but to kill Him and His followers

16-22 Allow a little wiggle room. (minor technicalities, and loopholes)
   Let your word be your bond.  
   Let your yes be yes, and your no, be no. – Matthew 5:37
   The Jewish leaders would lie and break oaths, or promises that they had made and convince others that it was okay, there words over God's words.

23-24 Major in the minors
   Godliness should be shown in love for the weakest of our neighbors. God desires mercy, compassion, loyalty, not sacrifice (Hosea 6:6, Matt. 9:13, Matt 12:7)
   He wants justice it's an easy thing to describe when we talk about the estimated 50 million abortions that have taken place, or Mercy for the 4.6 million orphans living in Ethiopia,
   God desires faithfulness knowing who we are in Him and living that out.

25-28 Appearances are everything
   Self-ignorance is the most shameful and hurtful ignorance. The rule is, Cleanse first that which is within. The main thing for every one of us should be to wash our hearts from wickedness. The main business of a Christian lies within, to get cleansed from the filthiness. Corrupt affections and inclinations, the secret lusts that lurk in the soul, unseen and unobserved, these must first be mortified and subdued. Those sins must be conscientiously abstained from, which the eye of God only is a witness to, who searches the heart.

29-36 Like father, like son
   The leaders of Israel were saying that they wouldn’t do such things but before them stands a prophet they will crucify in a few short days.
“You Hypocrites!”
Matthew 23
Sunday, Jan 20 2013
Sermon Discussion Questions

37-39 Jerusalem will be gone Israel will lose it.
Also, Jesus will be gone. The Messiah, Jesus, is heading to the cross and their chances to except Him while He was still
in physical form have ended.

Talk through in your Home Discipleship Groups the following questions that Pastor Mike asked in church:

We need to ask ourselves if we are truly following Jesus or just going through the motions. We need to be aware of how
seriously Jesus takes hypocrisy and be aware of it entering into our lives.

**Challenge:** Answer the following questions to yourself:

1. Do I want people to think better of me than I really am?
2. Does it bother me when people don’t notice my spiritual performance?
3. Do I modify my actions to make sure others notice the way I am praying, serving, or otherwise being holy?
4. Am I quick to condemn others but touchy when my own faults are pointed out?
5. Do I spend much time looking spiritual but very little time on inner spirituality?

If you have time take a look at and discuss the following passages of scripture and how they relate to the
topic of hypocrisy:

**Romans 2:1** You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever
point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same
things.

**Luke 12:1** Meanwhile, when a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so that they were trampling on
one another, Jesus began to speak first to his disciples, saying: “Beon your guard against the yeast of the
Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

**Titus 1:16** They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient
and unfit for doing anything good.

**Matt 15:7-9** You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: ‘These people honor me
with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human
rules.”

**Luke 6:41-42** “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the
plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,’
when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your
eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.