

Barriers
Wk 4

Purpose: For Students to understand how our perspective of our self can become a barrier

Passage (s): MT. 22: 15, 23, 34-35; 23:23-28

Major Emphasis: Mt. 22:23, 23:27-28

Topic: Barrier of Pride and Perspective

Ricks Devotional: The Pharisee's and Sadducee's were the main religious leaders of the time. Because of that position and identity they truly believed they were close to God. However when God showed up in front of them, (Christ) they attacked, questioned and attempted to "trap" God himself. They never once thought that they could be in the wrong, not once did they ask themselves if he was God. They assumed because of what they "did" and "who" they were that they were closest to God. As they did that they created a barrier between themselves and God because of their perspective of themselves. How often do we believe we're close to God because of what we "do" and who we "are" and miss Him when He shows up in front of us. How often do we get defensive when someone questions us, what we've "done" or we "are" and then attempt to attack or trap them. Totally missing what God is trying to say. How many of us have created a barrier between us and God because of the way we look at ourselves.

We overcome the barrier of perspective with a humble out look toward others, toward ourselves and a submissive heart toward God. 1 Peter 5:5-8

Small Group:

Option 1

Discuss how the religious leaders of the time became blind to God himself and how we can fall into the same trap

1. Their actions became more important to them than their hearts (Mt 23)
2. Pride gets in who we are overcomes our faith in who He is, clouding our vision of our need for Him.

Option 2

Discuss some of the ways we humble ourselves or that God humbles us.

1. We humble ourselves, by submitting to those over us and by casting our anxiety on Him (Pride leads to anxiety) (1 Peter 5:5-8)
2. God humbles us by taking things/people away from us (1 Sam.13:8-13)