

# CHRISTMAS

THE POWER OF PERSPECTIVE

December 3 | Pharisees

A Dilemma

We need HISTORY & CONTEXT ...

... to determine a POSSIBLE \_\_\_\_\_ ...

Where were the Pharisees in the birth narrative of Jesus?

*When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and **teachers of the law**, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. **Matthew 2:3-4***

*When the **teachers of the law who were Pharisees** saw Him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked His disciples: "Why does He eat with tax collectors and sinners?" **Mark 2:16***

## Why Pharisees hated Jesus

- Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ with unsavory people. [Matthew 9:10-11]
- Jesus didn't follow their \_\_\_\_\_. [Matthew 9:14]
- Scripture even reveals their \_\_\_\_\_. [Matthew 27:18]
- Jesus claimed to be \_\_\_\_\_ [Mark 14:61-62]

## How Jesus responded

*If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. **Matthew 18:6***

- Jesus wasn't upset with the Pharisees "\_\_\_\_\_."
- Jesus challenged their "\_\_\_\_\_." [Matthew 23:3]
- Pharisees made it difficult for people to \_\_\_\_\_ God. [Matthew 23:13]

### **Building Hedges**

Additional \_\_\_\_\_ that became \_\_\_\_\_ in order to "help" people follow the Torah. These oral traditions became Jewish *Mishnah* and helped form the Jewish *Talmud*.

**... and to arrive at \_\_\_\_\_ CONCLUSIONS.**

Where is my \_\_\_\_\_ pharisee?

What part of the gospel am I \_\_\_\_\_?

What \_\_\_\_\_ am I building that make it \_\_\_\_\_ for people to see Jesus?

Are we going to be a reason people see Jesus this year...or one more thing that keeps them out?