

(The Pharisees snicker smugly among themselves: They know this is a question that can lead to trouble with the secular authorities for JESUS. JESUS' followers know it too.)

JUDAS

You hypocrites!

(JUDAS lunges for the Pharisees, but he is stopped by JESUS, who reassuringly urges JUDAS to return to his place.)

JESUS

(To Pharisees)

Show me the money in which the tax is paid.

(The Pharisees become a money-producing machine of some sort – cash register, slot machine, ATM, etc. – and produce an invisible coin, which one of them flips to JESUS.)

Well, now, whose head is on here, whose inscription?

UZO

Caesar's.

JESUS

Then pay Caesar what is due Caesar, but pay God what is due God.

(The Pharisees are irritated at not having tripped JESUS up.)

NICK

Master, what is the greatest commandment of them all?

(This is another trick question, for there is not supposed to be a "greatest" commandment. However JESUS answers will get him in trouble with the religious establishment. Nevertheless, JESUS answers clearly and calmly.)

JESUS

Thou shalt love the Lord, your God, with all your heart and all your soul. This is the greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. All the rest of the law, and all the prophets have written, is based on these first two.

(But JESUS sees that he is plainly not getting through to the Pharisees, that they have already pre-judged him. Frustrated, he turns to the audience and addresses us with urgency, getting angrier and angrier.)

The doctors of the law and the Pharisees sit in the chair of Moses, therefore listen to what they say, pay attention to their words, but do not follow their practices. For they say one thing and do another. They make up heavy packs and pile them on men's shoulders and they don't raise a finger to lift the load themselves. Everything they do is done for show. Oh, they go about wearing broad phylacteries with large tassels on their robes. They like to have their places of honor at feasts and at the

(JESUS)

synagogues and to be greeted respectfully in the streets and to be called "teacher."

(JESUS is handed the microphone by JUDAS, as he turns back to confront the Pharisees.)

But you must not be called "teacher" for you have one teacher: The Messiah,...

(Into microphone)

...and you must not call any man on earth "father" for you have only one Father and you are all brothers,...

#13 - *Alas for You*

...And you must call no man on earth "rabbi" for you have one Rabbi and he is in Heaven.

ALAS, ALAS, FOR YOU, LAWYERS AND PHARISEES,
HYPOCRITES THAT YOU ARE;
SURE THAT THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN AWAITS YOU.
YOU WILL NOT VENTURE HALF SO FAR.
OTHER MEN WHO MIGHT ENTER THE GATES YOU
KEEP FROM PASSING THROUGH;
DRAG THEM DOWN WITH YOU.

YOU SNAKES, YOU VIPER'S BROOD,
YOU CANNOT ESCAPE BEING DEVIL'S FOOD.
I SEND YOU PROPHETS AND I SEND YOU PREACHERS;
SAGES IN RAGES AND AGES OF TEACHERS.
NOTHING CAN MAR YOUR MOOD.

JUDAS AND THE OTHER DISCIPLES

(Shouting at Pharisees)

Hypocrites!

JESUS

ALAS, ALAS FOR YOU, LAWYERS AND PHARISEES,
HYPOCRITES TO A MAN;
SONS OF THE DOGS WHO MURDERED THE PROPHETS,
FINISHING OFF WHAT YOUR FATHERS BEGAN.
YOU DON'T HAVE TIME TO SCORN OR TO SCOFF.
IT'S GETTING VERY LATE.
VENGEANCE DOESN'T WAIT.