



# **Are We Pharisees?**



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# Sadducees

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- Party of the rich; They were in charge of the Temple and its services.
- Opposed the oral law, accepting the Pentateuch, as the ultimate authority
- Materialistic in their outlook
- Did not believe in life after death or any reward or punishment beyond this life
- Denied the existence of angels and demons
- Politically oriented, supporters of ruling powers, whomever was in power

# Pharisees

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- **Most important group – about 6000 in number**
- **Their name “Pharisee” meant “the separated ones”**

# They believed:

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- **That every soul is imperishable**
  - **That only souls of the righteous pass into another body - a modified form of reincarnation**
- **Believed in the existence of angels and spirits**
- **Believed that the law consisted of two parts:**
  - **The written law**
  - **The oral law. That interpretations of the law had been given by Moses to the elders and had been transmitted orally down through the ages**

# Seven Classes of Pharisees:

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1. **“Shoulder”** – wore good deeds on his shoulders
2. **“Wait-a-little”** - who begs for time in order to perform a meritorious action
3. **The “bleeding”** - who in his eagerness to avoid looking on a woman shuts his eyes
4. **“Painted”** - who advertised his holiness
5. **“Reckoning”** – sought duty to balance any neglected duty
6. **“Fearing”** - relation to God is of trembling awe
7. **“Love”** – not all were hypocrites

# ***Characteristics***

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- ***Self-righteous***
  - **Trusted in self (Lk. 18:9-14)**
  - **Shocked at Jesus' eating with sinners (Lk. 15:1-2)**
    - **Setting for the parables in Lk 15**
  - **They were the Elder brother (Lk. 15)**

# ***Characteristics***

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- ***Supercritical***
  - Of Christ (Matt. 11:16-19; Lk. 6:7)
  - Of others (Matt. 7:1-2)
- ***Prideful***
  - In giving alms (Matt. 6:1-4)
  - In praying (Matt. 6:5-8)
  - In fasting (Matt. 6:16-18)

# ***Characteristics***

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- ***Hypocrites***

- Devoured widows houses... (Matt. 23:14)

- Said but did not (Matt. 23:3)

- ***Faulty Bible Interpretation***

- Bound by tradition and custom (Mk. 7:1-13)

- Majored on minors (Matt. 23:23)

- Strained at gnats and swallowed camels (Matt. 23:24)