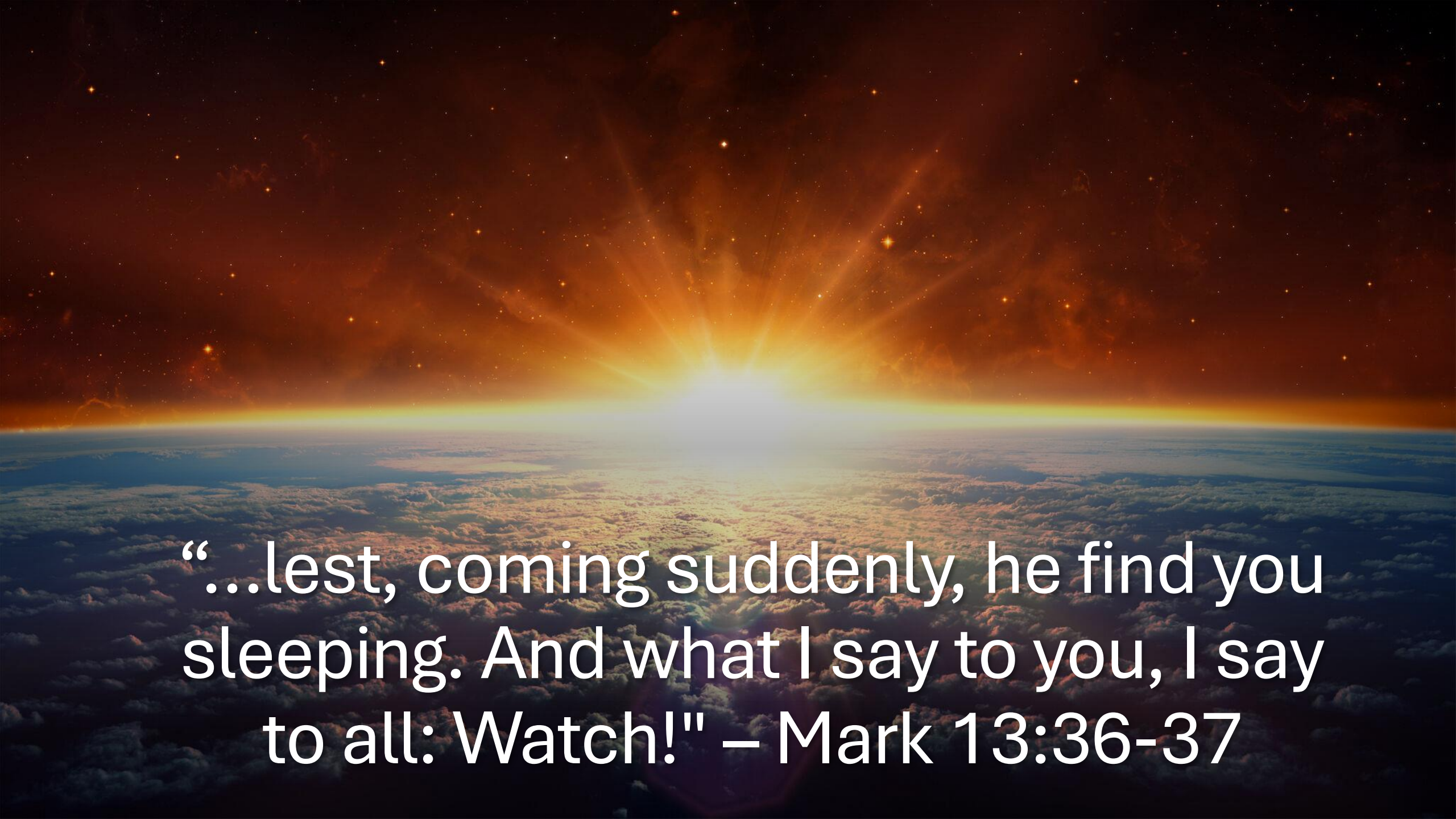




“...lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!" – Mark 13:36-37



Beware of Fake Spirituality

4th Sunday of Mesra

Introduction

- Parable of the Wheat and Tares (Matt. 13:24-30)
- "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; 25 but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. 26 But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. 27 So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' 28 He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' 29 But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, **"First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn."**""

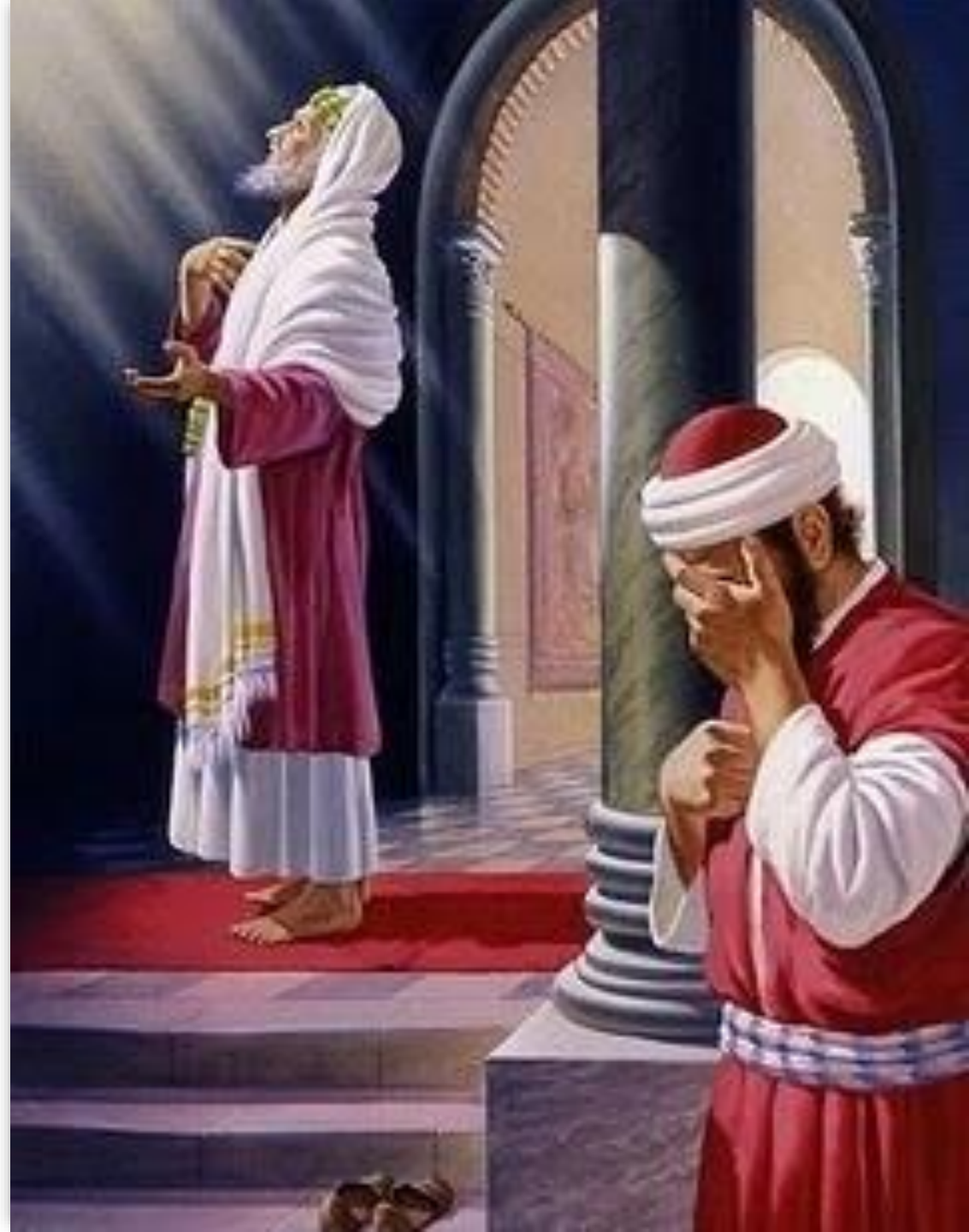
Introduction

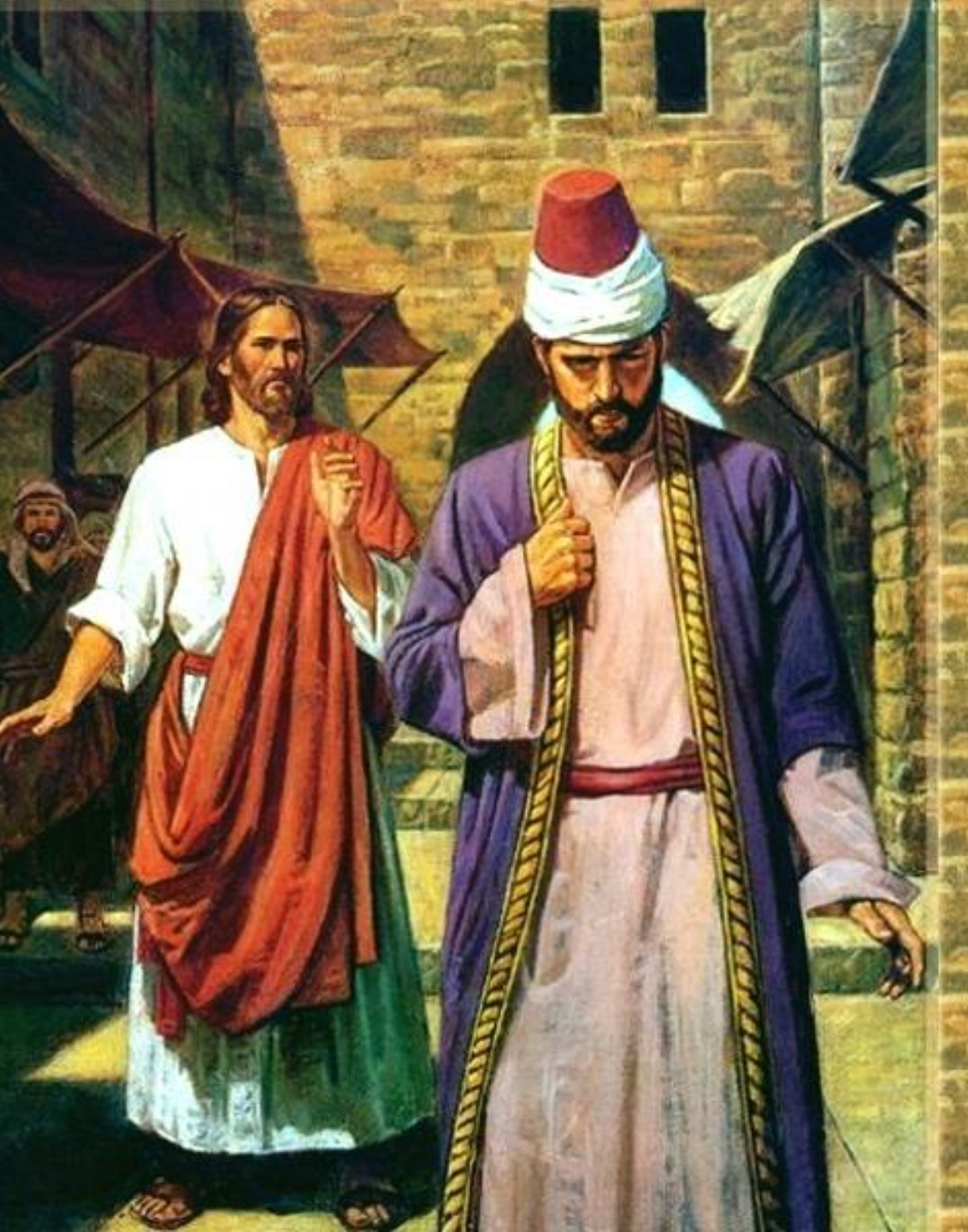
- "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, '**I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!**' (Matt. 7:21-23)

Fake Spirituality

Outward Focus on Appearances

- “Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.” (Matt. 6:1)
- EX: The Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14)
- 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' 13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' (vs. 11-13)
- EX: Ananias and Sapphira





Self-Righteousness and Pride

- EX: Rich Young Ruler
- "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" (Matt. 19:20)
- EX: Church of the Laodiceans
- "Because you say, I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked..." (Rev. 3:17)



Hypocrisy

- EX: Pharisees
- “Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do.” (Matt. 23:3)

Focus on “doing” rather than relationship

- “Therefore the Lord said: ‘Inasmuch as **these people draw near with their mouths And honor Me with their lips, But have removed their hearts far from Me**, And their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men.’” (Is. 29:13)
- EX: The Cleaning of the Temple
- “'My house is a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'” (Lk. 19:46)
- “My son, give me your heart, And let your eyes observe my ways.” (Prov. 23:26)



Conclusion

- **Characteristics of Fake Spirituality:**
 - Outward Focus on Appearances
 - Self-Righteousness and Pride
 - Hypocrisy
 - Focus on “doing” rituals/service/activities rather than relationship
- **Part 2**
 - Consequences of Fake Spirituality:
 - Cultivate Genuine Spirituality