



Beware of Fake Spirituality -Part 2

Sunday of Nesi

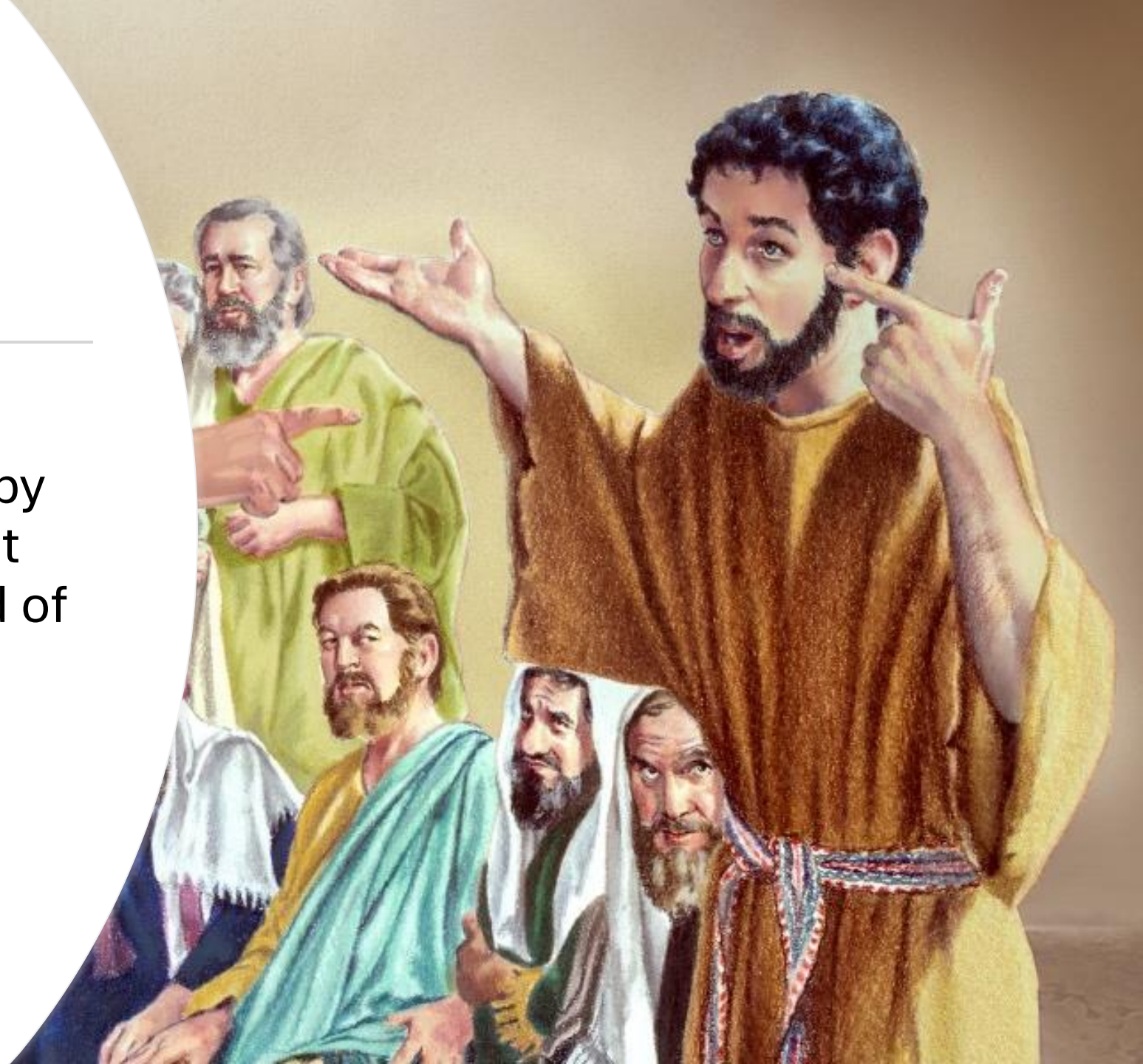
Recap

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

Consequences of Fake Spirituality

Blindness

- “Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is obliged to perform it.’” (Matt. 23:16)
- EX: Pharisees with the Man Born Blind
- EX: Samson



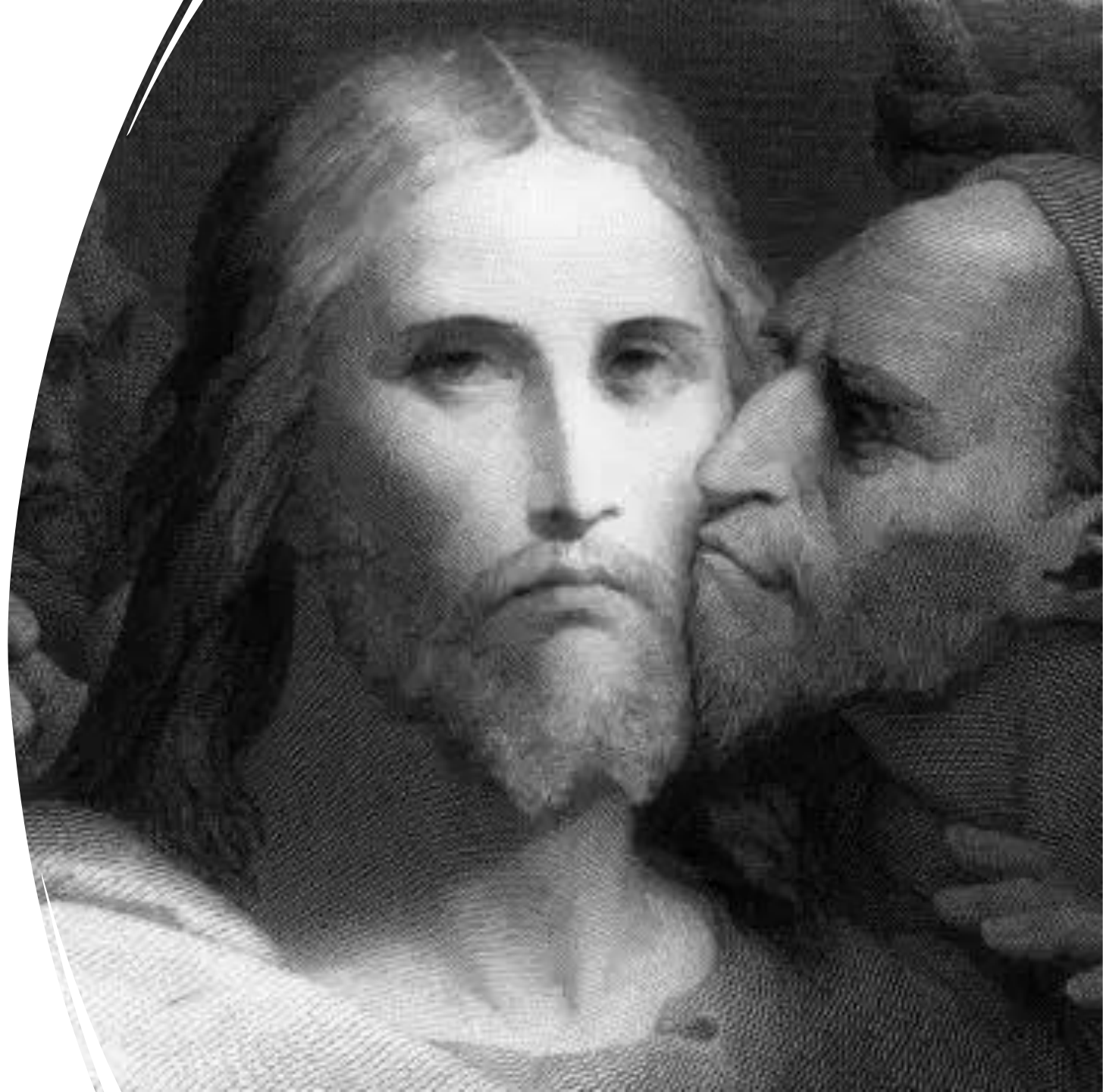


False sense of security

- “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.” (Matt. 7:21)

No true spiritual growth

- We cannot have a relationship with the Truth while living a lie.



Cultivate Genuine Spirituality

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Develop a humble and repentant heart

- EX: St. Paul
 - “For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am..” (1 Cor. 15:9-10)
 - Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector
 - “God, be merciful to me a sinner!” (Lk. 18:13)
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Deepen your relationship with God

- *"Late have I loved You, O Beauty ever ancient, ever new, late have I loved You! You were within me, but I was outside, and it was there that I searched for You." (St. Augustine)*



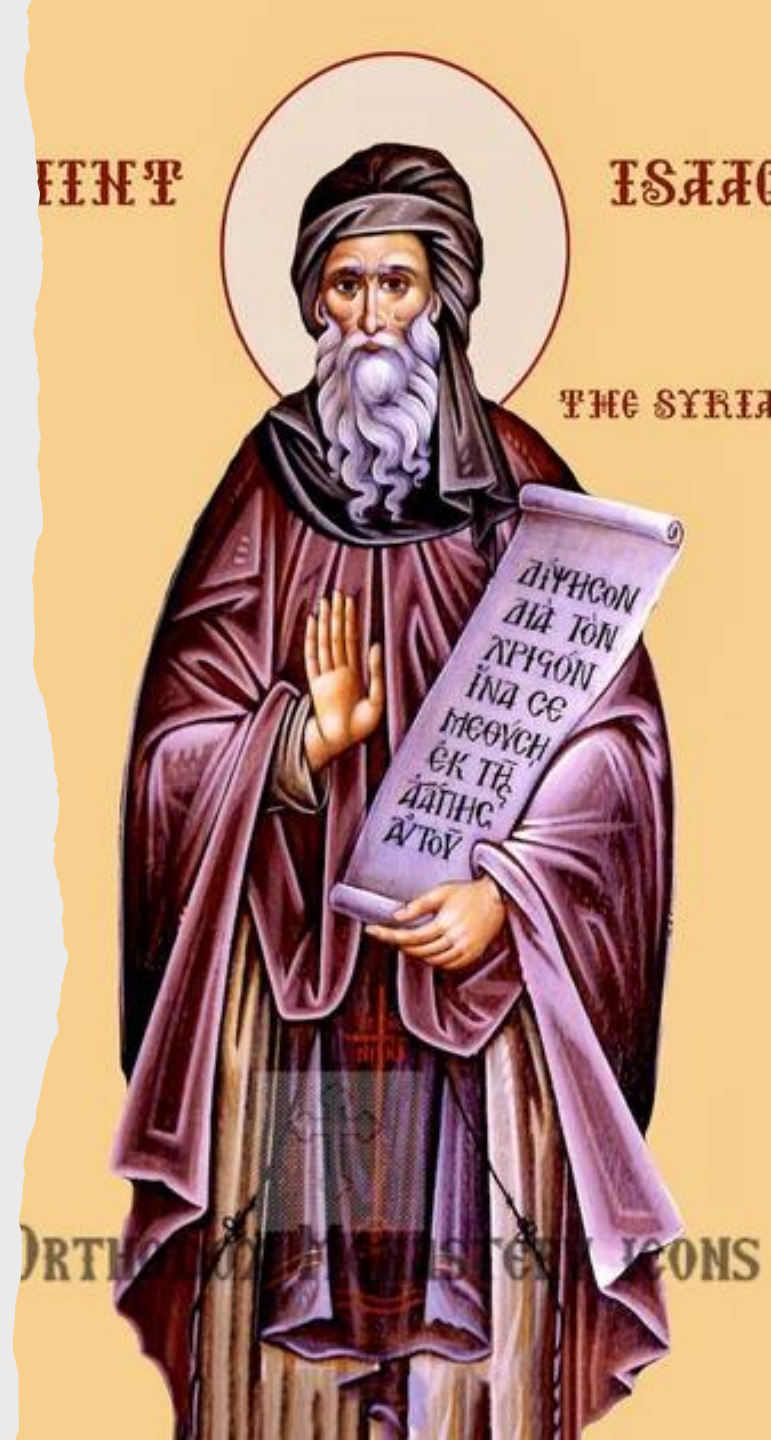
Evaluate your motives

- "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. **These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.**" (Matt. 23:23)
- St. Paul



Strive in growing in virtue

- *"Christians, instead of arming themselves with swords, extend their hands in prayer. They, at the cost of their own lives, strive to practice virtue."* (St. Athanasius)
- *"Do not fall into despair because of your stumblings; I do not mean that you should not feel pain because of them, but that you should not consider them incurable. For it is better to be wounded and yet struggle than to be healthy and at ease and to surrender."* (St. Isaac the Syrian)



Conclusion

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 - Develop a humble and repentant heart
 - Deepen your relationship with God
 - Evaluate your motives
 - Strive in growing in virtue