



Grace Assembly Of God

## CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER BIBLE READING DEVOTIONAL

Scripture:	Matthew 23	Title:	“Being vs Doing”
Author	Sister Goh Lee Choo		
Summary of Chapter	Jesus addressed the crowd and the disciples, warning them against the hypocrisy and self-seeking attitude of the scribes and pharisees, Israel’s religious leaders at that time. Jesus condemned the leaders for greed and pride, and for putting legalistic demands on their faith that led the nation away from the reliance on God's righteousness.		

Key Verse(s) NLT	How does it speak to me?
<sup>23</sup> <i>“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore the more important aspects of the law—justice, mercy, and faith. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things.</i>	<p>This verse reminds me that God looks beyond my acts of giving, sacrifice or service. My motivation, the underlying attitude towards others and the values I uphold are more important in the eyes of God. This is not easy when I focus on doing things well but along the way, I tend to neglect the feelings of others. In this season of working from home, I expected my family to adjust to my schedule because I am "doing God's work". In my quiet time with the Lord, God showed me how my self-centredness and the sense of entitlement had taken over me. In the name of serving others, I sought to be served! I had to ask for God’s forgiveness and ask Him to fill my heart with His Love. I must not take my family for granted as they made adjustment to work around my limitations. How I need God to help me to be more like Christ who came to serve, and not to be served.</p> <p>I learnt that God is more interested about my being than my doing. The state of my heart is more important to Him than the work of my hands. As I take stock of my walk with God, I am reminded that in God's Kingdom, growth in the internal character is more valuable than the external performance of a Christian. Obedience is better than sacrifice.</p>

### APPLICATION REFLECTIONS

Adult:	Serving others is an antidote to self-preservation and stagnation of our walk with God. How will you serve differently to experience growth in your spiritual life? Ask God to help you put love into action through a ministry if you have not got one yet.
Youth:	Think of someone in your life who inspires you to love and serve God. How do you think his/her life reflect Christ-likeness? How do you want to grow likewise?
Child:	Remember your commitment to give to Missions in May this year? How do you think that pleases God when you give cheerfully (2 Cor. 9:7)? What are other things / ways can you give to God as an act of love?

### PRAYER

Praying Scripture:	Heavenly Father, thank You for Your loving kindness and Your mercy to us. We do not deserve even to be called Your servants. But You have called us to be Your sons and daughters. Your amazing grace always finds us where we fall short to represent Jesus in our everyday life. Help us to grow in humility, to have a big heart for people and to have faith to do for what is pleasing in Your sight. So that many around us can bear witness to the good work out from our salvation in Christ.
Thanksgiving Prayer:	I/We thank you for _____ (e.g. delicious food we ate, places we went, prayer that was answered, etc)
Intercessory Prayer:	I/We want to pray for _____ (e.g. healing of sickness, family members, work or study, leaders, nation, etc)
Salvation Prayer:	I/We pray for the salvation of my/our unsaved loved ones _____ (add one name per day). In Jesus’ Name I/we pray. Amen.