

I Want To Do What's Right



# WELCOME

## Practice What You Preach

Do what you tell others to do  
(Matthew 23:1-12)



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Have you heard of a game called 'Simon Says?' In this game, the leader tells you things to do but you have to listen closely. If the leader says, "Simon says," then you do the motion. If the leader doesn't say, "Simon Says," you don't do the motion. Got it?

But what if you played it the opposite way. You still need to listen to hear the leader say, "Simon Says" before you do a motion. But, in this Opposite Simon Says, you will do the opposite of what the leader says. If the leader says, "Simon says, 'don't touch your head,' you will do the opposite and touch your head." Let's try this.

Simon says, "don't clap your hands." (you should have clapped your hands because we are doing the opposite thing.)

OK. Let's have a few more goes. Ready? Remember we are doing the opposite to what Simon Says.

"Simon says, 'Stand up.' " (Did you sit down?)

"Stand up." (You should not move, Simon didn't say)

"Simon says, 'Sit down.' " (Are you standing up?)

"Simon says, 'Don't pat your head.' " (pat your head.)

"Simon says, 'Don't stop patting your head.' " (Did you stop?)

"Pat your stomach." (Don't move. Simon didn't say)

"Simon says, 'Don't practice what you preach.'" (What! Confused?)

Let's read on...

Practice what you preach. What does that mean? I think it means that if you tell someone to do something, you need to do it, too. Practice what you preach means don't do the opposite thing that you say. Instead do what you say others should do.

In our Bible lesson today, Jesus had something to say about "practicing what you preach." Jesus was talking about the teachers of the law and the Pharisees in the synagogue where people went to worship. Jesus said that everything that they did was done so that others would see them and think how great they were. But they didn't do what they told other people to do. In fact, they did the opposite!

What did Jesus tell us to do about teachers like these?

You might think Jesus would say, "Don't listen to them! You don't have to do what they say." But He didn't. Jesus said, "Obey these teachers and do everything they say. But do not do what they do, because they do not practice what they preach." When it comes to living the Christian life, we need to make sure we do what we say.

Here's a little poem that would be good to remember.

*You can know a lot of Scripture*

*And have the gift to teach,*

*But what is more important --*

*Is to practice what you preach!*

**Let's Pray:**

**Dear God, help us be people who do what we say so that others can see the love of Jesus in us. In Jesus' name, amen.**

### Practice What You Preach

#### Jumble

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It is hard to be this when you think you are great!

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1 2 3 4 5 6



Words Used: teacher must obey preach must