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Devotion for November 5th, 2021

*"The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do.
For they preach, but do not practice."
- [Matthew 23:2-3](#)*

Old adages may be just that, old, but they had to start somewhere. In this passage we have the start of a very popular one, "Practice what you preach!" The occasion for that saying was the beginning of Holy Week and what Jesus has to say is extremely powerful and instructive for all of us, particularly on the heels of an election.

Jesus is very clear that the scribes and Pharisees, the very ones who were plotting His execution at that moment, held positions of authority as they sat on "Moses' seat." Their authority was given to them by God and until He removed them, what these men said must be obeyed so long as it was in keeping with what the Bible said.

Likewise, our elected and appointed leaders receive their authority from the Lord who establishes civil government and for that matter, institutional structures for the sake of good order. You may not agree with what someone in these positions of leadership is doing or, for that matter, with the way that they live their life, but that does not give you the right to ignore and disobey them. In fact, if you do, you are directly breaking the Fourth Commandment, thereby committing a sin.

So practice what you preach as a Christian, giving those in authority their due, which means your support when needed and your prayers always. This is also a comfort for those who are teachers, as it protects them in their vocations as they create for their scholars an exceptional Christ-centered learning environment where scholars are safe and Christian behavior is modeled.

In closing, consider Jesus who, as He said these words, was heading to the cross. There He provided the ultimate act of love for His neighbor as He took upon Himself the sins of the world and died for them. He was the one who not only practiced what He preached, He perfected it! Praise be His Holy Name forever. Amen.

*God's blessings,
Rev. Kevin Loughran, Senior Pastor
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