

Don't Get "Son-Burned"

by Wayne Goff

Getting a sunburn recently led me to thinking about people who got "Son-burned." It isn't something any of us should want, but Jesus is fair, honest, and equitable, so let me show you some things that got people "Son-burned."

- **Show-offs.** Nobody really likes a show off, and Jesus condemned them in the religious realm. *"But all their works they do to be seen by men...."* (Matt. 23:5).
- **Hypocrisy.** Jesus was opposed to religious hypocrisy, as are we all. But some who complain most about hypocrites are themselves hypocrites! *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves"* (Matt. 23:15). Ouch! Son-burned!
- **Blind guides.** Can you imagine following a blind guide out into a dangerous situation? Nobody would do that, *literally*. But many so-called "pastors" in the religious world have very little Bible knowledge. They are blind leaders! Jesus called the scribes and Pharisees such! *"Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!"* (Matthew 23:24). I believe today we call that "majoring in minors."
- **Posers.** A poser is someone who puts forth a public image but is nothing like that in reality. Think in your mind the baby-kissing politician! Once again, Jesus called the scribes and Pharisees on it: *"Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness"* (Matthew 23:28). The definition of a "poser," is someone who acts in such a way as to impress **others**. Shouldn't we be worried about impressing God instead? Honesty, integrity, transparency, and humility are the traits that impress God. We can't "fake it" with Him.
- **Snakes.** Someone is a snake if he schemes, acts underhandedly, etc. Jesus called the Jewish leaders *"serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?"* (Matthew 23:33).

Dear friend, be sure that you are not trying to impress men, but God. He can see through us, you know!

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