Introduction:

- Have you ever been accused of being Pharisaical because of your stand for the truth?
- Maybe you have convictions about the scriptures that seem to be stronger convictions than other brethren poses.
- When we say that someone is "Pharisaical" what do we really mean by that?
- Have we created a definition of that term that is accurate to the true Pharisees of Jesus' day?

I. Classic Definition
  A. What is a Pharisee? _____
  B. They were devoted to absolute standards of righteousness.
  C. They were so concerned with following God's law they established many of their own rules just to be safe.
  D. Matthew 22:15-33
      1) What were they trying to do? _____
  E. Matthew 22:41 – 23:23 – Jesus calls them out.

II. Real Pharisees
  A. Yes they had very strict interpretation and observance of the law but what were the true reasons?
  B. Matthew 23:25-33
  C. The focus was really on whom? _____
  D. Matthew 5:21-48 Jesus calls them out on their law keeping.

III. Will The Real Pharisees Please Stand
  A. There is purpose and intent behind every word given to us from God.
  B. We often ask or are asked questions beginning with the statement "IS IT A SIN IF…"
  C. What are we really asking?
  D. What should be our motives be for everything we do?
      _____

IV. Surpassing the Pharisees
  A. It is evident that others see this mindset and attitude in our lives.
  B. The Pharisees were the religious leaders of that day and yet in Matthew 23 Jesus calls them what? _____
  C. Matthew 5:20 – "I tell you, unless your _____ exceeds that of the scribes and _____, you will never _____ the _____ of _____."

Conclusion:

- We have to change our way of thinking.
- We have been called to a higher standard and higher calling than what we think is acceptable.
- God's standard will set us apart, make us different, make us noticeable as others will see Him and His Son in our lives.
- Whose standard are we living by?
- What are others seeing in my life?