

## The Backstage | A Soul Care Conference

### Reflection Exercise: “Entering In,” based on Matthew 23

**Look at your front stage.** What are the “trappings” of the front stage in your life? Jesus gives clear direction to his followers about what he desires on the front stage of leadership (Matthew 23:8-12). He provides this in stark contrast to the leaders of his day (Matthew 23:1-7). Spend a few minutes reviewing these verses (verses 1-12). Ask God to give insight and to show you what he sees on your front stage. Invite God to direct and shape the front stage of ministry. Record your prayer along with what God shows you:

**Look at your backstage.** Is your inner person characterized by life or death, authenticity, or self-indulgence? Review your backstage considering Matthew 23:25-28. Jesus invites you to “enter in” and to receive cleansing and renewal. Record what God shows you:

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**Pray about entering in.** Jesus teaches that life is not ultimately found on the front stage, but in the hidden spaces behind the curtain. How would you like to respond to Jesus’ invitation to come backstage to receive his care? What are some next steps the Holy Spirit is leading you to take? Remember, Jesus protects you and cares for you; he invites you to “enter in” to his kingdom and his grace. Record your next steps: