

From the Inclusive Bible

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

Let us remind you, sisters and brothers, of our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the Good News of God to you. 10 You are witnesses, and so is God, that our treatment of you since you have become believers has been just, upright and impeccable. 11 You likewise know how we treated every one of you, as parents do their children-encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into glory and the kingdom. " And we constantly thank God for the way you received the words we preached to you, not as our word but as the word of God, which it really was. And it changed your lives when you believed it.

Matthew 23:1-12

Jesus told the crowds and the disciples, "The religious scholars and the Pharisees have succeeded Moses as teachers; therefore, perform every observance they tell you to. But don't follow their example; even they don't do what they say. They tie up heavy loads and lay them on others' shoulders, while they themselves will not lift a finger to help alleviate the burden.

"All their works are performed to be seen. They widen their phylacteries and wear huge tassels. They are fond of places of honor at banquets and the front seats in synagogues. They love respectful greetings in public and being called 'Rabbi.'

"But as for you, avoid the title 'Rabbi.' For you have only one Teacher, and you are all sisters and brothers. And don't call anyone on earth your 'Mother' or 'Father.' You have only one Parent-our loving God in heaven. to Avoid being called leaders. You have only one leader-the Messiah.

"The greatest among you will be the one who serves the rest. Those who exalt themselves will be humbled, but those who humble themselves will be exalted.