

## Clean Hearts (Luke 11:37-44)

Theme: Exposing the sin of Self-righteousness and Hypocrisy and applying the Gospel Cure.

THE GENERAL REBUKE (vv.37-40)

- 1) **The Pharisees were more concerned with outward appearance than inward purity of heart.**

You know you are a religious hypocrite when:

You're more concerned with your \_\_\_\_\_ behaviour than \_\_\_\_\_ attitudes.

THE THREE WOES (vv. 42-44)

- 2) **The Pharisees were more concerned about their own little rules than about the big things that matter to God. (v.42)**

You know you are a religious hypocrite when:

You focus on the \_\_\_\_\_ things at the expense of \_\_\_\_\_ moral attitudes.

- 3) **The Pharisees craved people's praise of their spiritual accomplishments rather than God's glory. (v.43)**

A) This longing for human praise caused them to broadcast their spiritual accomplishments in order to compete for attention.

You know you are a religious hypocrite when:

You grow \_\_\_\_\_ when people fail to give you the attention you think you deserve for your ministry or your spiritual devotion.

B) This longing for human praise caused the Pharisees to enforce the status quo. Don't step out of line or you will be cast out.

You know you are a religious hypocrite when:

When your human relationships and the affirmation you get from those relationships, \_\_\_\_\_ obedience to the word of God.

- 4) **The Pharisees were spiritually dead on the inside and no one knew it; often not even themselves. (v.44)**

You know you are a religious hypocrite when:

A) You think you have life but your spiritual death \_\_\_\_\_ everyone around you.

You know you are a religious hypocrite when:

B) You are sitting here this morning thinking of everyone \_\_\_\_\_ who needs to be listening to this sermon instead of you.

- 5) **The Gospel Cure for hypocrisy. (v.41)**

A) Focus on inward issues of repentance rather than merely focusing on or altering external behaviour.

B) Seek God's praise rather than pleasing people

C) Don't deceive yourself into thinking moral reformation is equivalent to Gospel obedience.

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## Small Group Questions

### REFLECT

1. In verse 38, Jesus knew that it would cause a problem if He did not wash His hands. Why do you think Jesus intentionally did this?
2. Let's read verses 39-41 again. What is Jesus' big concern about these religious leaders? What are the first three criticisms in verses 42-44? How would you summarize them?
3. Read Matthew 23:27. How is the idea similar to v.39 of our text?
4. How were the Pharisees acting as fools according to v.40?
5. Theologian and N.T. scholar Darrel Bock interprets v.41 as "give alms with respect to inside things" or "give away your greed and wickedness, get rid of your sin, and everything will be clean for you". How is this thought similar to the thought expressed in v.32?
6. Read Isaiah 1:10-17. How is the substance of this passage the same as our text in Luke? What is the answer to the problem in Isaiah 1: 18-20?
7. Read Isaiah 29:13-14. What wonder do you think God would do to confound and further blind the hypocritical wisdom of the wise and so-called "discerning"? See 1Cor. 1:18-25

### RESPOND

How can you make the Gospel your antidote to avoiding the poison of legalism and hypocrisy?

How do we cultivate a real faith in light of the constant temptation to fake it?

How can you daily cultivate an attitude of repentance?

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