

## Luke 11 pt. 6 vs. 36-54

<sup>37</sup> And as He spoke, a certain Pharisee asked Him to dine with him. So He went in and sat down to eat. <sup>38</sup> When the Pharisee saw *it*, he marveled that He had not first washed before dinner.

<sup>39</sup> Then the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees make the outside of the cup and dish clean, but your inward part is full of greed and wickedness. <sup>40</sup> Foolish ones! Did not He who made the outside make the inside also? <sup>41</sup> But rather give alms of such things as you have; then indeed all things are clean to you.

<sup>42</sup> "But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass by justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. <sup>43</sup> Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the best seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces. <sup>44</sup> Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like graves which are not seen, and the men who walk over *them* are not aware of *them*."

<sup>45</sup> Then one of the lawyers answered and said to Him, "Teacher, by saying these things You reproach us also."

<sup>46</sup> And He said, "Woe to you also, lawyers! For you load men with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers. <sup>47</sup> Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets, and your fathers killed them. <sup>48</sup> In fact, you bear witness that you approve the deeds of your fathers; for they indeed killed them, and you build their tombs. <sup>49</sup> Therefore the wisdom of God also said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, and *some* of them they will kill and persecute,' <sup>50</sup> that the blood of all the prophets which was shed from the foundation of the world may be required of this generation, <sup>51</sup> from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who perished between the altar and the temple. Yes, I say to you, it shall be required of this generation.

<sup>52</sup> "Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in you hindered."

<sup>53</sup> And as He said these things to them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to assail *Him* vehemently, and to cross-examine Him about many things, <sup>54</sup> lying in wait for Him, and seeking to catch Him in something He might say, that they might accuse Him.

1. In our last study, we looked at darkness & light & how to walk in the light
2. This study is a bit challenging, but we want to whole council of God
3. As Jesus was teaching, a Pharisee invited Him to a meal

- 1) It's amazing how Jesus is willing to go wherever He's invited
  - 2) From the highest to the lowest levels of society, when invited, He goes
4. The host is a Pharisee (1 among a group of 6000 in Israel)
  5. Being part of the religious elite, he had to follow certain traditions
    - 1) One of those was washing hands before eating
    - 2) Washing hands wasn't really about sanitation, but ceremony
    - 3) 1 & ½ eggshells of water was used to wash each hand
      - i. The most devout had to repeat this at every meal
    - 4) They had volumes of traditions handed down over time
  6. Ceremonial cleansings were for the priests in the O.T
  7. The Pharisees adopted it and began teaching it to others
    - 1) **This is something common among us as people**
    - 2) When we have a zeal for God & believe something is personally for us to either do or abstain from, we have a tendency to place it on others
    - 3) And this is our tendency toward legalism which leads to being judgmental
    - 4) it's very subtle because almost always, it begins with good intentions
8. Many of these rules and rituals followed by the Pharisees came to be when the children of Israel were taken captive into Babylon.
    - 1) They were not able to sacrifice because the temple was destroyed
    - 2) So they began to seek the law of Moses and take it to heart
    - 3) They began to inquire about what does Moses mean when he says you shall not work on the Sabbath
      - i. They wanted to do their best to follow the law in that foreign land
      - ii. In the Mishna, (Jewish writings) 24 chapters are devoted to how to keep the Sabbath, what to do and what not to do
        1. How far you can walk
        2. What you can carry
        3. How heavy the thing you carry is...
      - iii. This turns the pure law of God designed to get people to love God and love their neighbors into a legalistic set of rules.
      - iv. This is a dangerous thing
      - v. It moves you from love to legalism
      - vi. **All of us are prone to fall into legalism**
  9. Keeping the law has a certain appeal
  10. Most religions teach that if you do the following things, you are ok with God
    - a. If you help other people
    - b. If you're kind and generous
    - c. If you serve your community, you're a good person

- i. 'Good people go to heaven'
      - 1. **Truth is 'no good people are in heaven'**
        - a. Only sinners saved by God's grace are in heaven
11. Today, Islam is one of the fastest growing religions in the world
- a. It offers people a set of do's and don'ts
  - b. Man feels like he needs rules to follow
    - ii. Declaration of faith
    - iii. Pray 5 times per day
    - iv. Fast
    - v. Give to the poor
    - vi. Pilgrimage
12. **Religion is of the greatest weapons of deception designed by Satan**
- a. It gives people a sense of relief that you have "**paid your dues**" to God
  - b. That is an example of legalism
13. Legalism is an attempt to gain favor with God or to impress our fellow man by doing certain things (or avoiding other things), without regard to the condition of our hearts before God.
- 1) This is what Jesus is opposing in this setting
  - 2) At the root of legalism is the sin of pride, because the legalist thinks that he is able to commend himself to God by his own good deeds (**Cole**)
  - 3) **All of us are prone to this**
  - 4) For example, [you may have heard church people say] that to be spiritual one must ... avoid tobacco, alcoholic beverages, dancing, movies, etc. The truth is that avoiding these things is no guarantee of spirituality (**gotquestions.org**)
  - 5) **Legalism is man's compensation for a broken relationship with God**
    - i. **Just as when the temple was destroyed**
  - 6) It's not what we do or don't do that gets us to heaven – it's our faith in Christ alone
  - 7) Legalism has been an effective tool of the enemy
    - i. If he can't get a Christian to walk into a bar or get involved in outlandish sins, he'll use legalism to keep the believer cold, distant and ineffective in ministry
14. This passage is more than highlighting how bad the Pharisees were and more about our propensity to fall into the same
15. Jesus sits down for a meal & is not giving in to their man made traditions
- 1) Instead, He highlights the truth of God

- 2) This may seem abrasive in our western culture, but in their culture, speaking your mind was common

16. What's amazing is how closely related this passage is to Prov 6:16

- 1) These six *things* the LORD hates,  
Yes, seven *are* an abomination to Him:  
<sup>17</sup>A proud look,  
A lying tongue,  
Hands that shed innocent blood,  
<sup>18</sup>A heart that devises wicked plans,  
Feet that are swift in running to evil,  
<sup>19</sup>A false witness *who* speaks lies,  
And one who sows discord among brethren.

17. If you've ever gone to a middle eastern wedding, you may have experienced Maza, appetizers before the main meal

- 1) We're only going to sample these 7 today

18. "Now you Pharisees make the outside of the cup and dish clean, but your inward part is full of greed and wickedness.<sup>40</sup> Foolish ones! Did not He who made the outside make the inside also?"

19. **The religious were concerned about the outside, not the inside**

- a. God made both the inside & outside
- b. It doesn't say blessed are those who shower daily, for they will see God...
- c. *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*
- d. They were not pure in heart, they were wicked
- e. Jesus see's right through them

- i. Some work real hard on the outside to keep things looking good
- ii. That is too heavy a burden to carry
  1. Living a lie and pretending is too difficult
  2. Asking God for a pure heart is the only way to go

- 1) God made the inside as much as the outside
- 2) God spoke to Samuel, 'man looks on the outside, but God looks at the heart' (1 Sam 16:7)
- 3) *But rather give alms of such things as you have; then indeed all things are clean to you*
- 4) What comes out of you determines what's really inside
  - i. If it's not a love for God and for others, something is wrong

20. Jesus calls out the Pharisees on 3 areas

2) **Hypocrisy** – Tithing to the penny while ignoring the love of God & justice

- i. You tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass by justice and the love of God
- ii. They were so specific with the smallest of details, but missed the big picture
- iii. They weren't giving out of love for God or for people
- iv. They gave out of obligation
- v. You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving (**Courson**)
- vi. They remembered to tithe, but they forgot justice, mercy and faith
- vii. **Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy**
- viii. 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice'
- ix. Jesus said we are to tithe and show mercy
- x. Tithing tells you where your heart is
- xi. Showing mercy is possible as I receive mercy from God
- xii. As I show mercy, I will be shown mercy
- xiii. When I stop showing mercy, I will not be able to enjoy God's mercy
- xiv. The religious would rather perform ceremony than have to show mercy
- xv. That deception is wickedness before God
- xvi. We want to walk in the light

3) **Pride** – love titles and privileges

- i. **You love the best seats and greetings in the market places**
- ii. The best seats in the synagogues were the seats up front facing the congregation. This is where the leaders and prominent people sat.
- iii. Who doesn't like to be acknowledged?
- iv. If you walk into a place and people offer you a better seat, who doesn't like that?
- v. A humble person doesn't care about being recognized by others
- vi. It's not that we don't need attention, but the humble receive their attention from God directly
- vii. **Luke 14:10** **But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.'** Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests.

4) **Facade** – like graves which are not seen

- i. You are like graves which are not seen, and the men who walk over them are not aware of them
- ii. Their lives are dead and defiled those around them
- iii. Instead of leading people to God, they defiled people
- iv. Contact with them is like touching a corpse
  - 1. **Numb 19:16** anyone who touched a grave was unclean 7 days
- v. Imagine you think you've got it together and Jesus says you're dead
- vi. **"You have a name that you're alive but you are dead"** (Rev 3:1 – Sardis)
- vii. A question for every believer is, 'when people come in contact with us, are they drawn to God or drawn away from God?'
- viii. 'Do we present Jesus in His goodness, or do we repel them from God?'

21. **A lawyer speaks up and says, ' teacher, by saying these things You reproach us also'**

22. **Ok, now it's your turn:**

23. **Jesus calls out the Lawyers on 3 areas**

5) **You load men with burdens / Sowing discord**

- i. Keep adding to the list of endless rules
- ii. How far they could travel, how much they could carry...
- iii. But the lawyers found loopholes in the law to go around these laws
- iv. This is a double standard
- v. God's standards are the same for all people...
- vi. As leaders or parents, we're to use one standard for people and we're to live by it before we preach it

6) **Built the tombs of your fathers**

- i. Woe to you! For you **build the tombs of the prophets**, and your fathers killed them. <sup>48</sup> In fact, you bear witness that you approve the deeds of your fathers; for they indeed killed them, and you build their tombs
- ii. The leaders were honoring the dead prophets and built their tombs
  - 1. They respected the dead prophets who did not speak to them anymore
  - 2. They hated the living prophets who spoke contrary to their wicked ways
  - 3. They persecuted the Lord of all of the prophets
- iii. These were the hands responsible for shedding innocent blood
- iv. Showing respect from one side and plotting to kill from the other
- v. It's amazing that the common people didn't have a problem with Jesus
- vi. The Roman government didn't have an issue with Him

- vii. It was the religious zealots that plotted and killed Him
- viii. Praying in the temple and plotting murder at the same time
- ix. If ever we are praying and there is hatred in our hearts, we need to realize what this is
- x. Hatred equals murder in the bible (1 John 3:15)

7) **You've taken away the key of knowledge**

- i. Lawyers wore a symbolic key on their sash – a symbol of access to God
- ii. By adding endless rules and giving people 'knowledge' which looks like helping people, they took away people's ability to know God
- iii. Never-ending list of rules to try and follow never works
- iv. That's why St. Augustine said: "love God and do whatever you please"
  - 1. If you love God, you will do your best to not offend Him
  - 2. Jesus broke it down to Love God and love your neighbor
- v. But the religious made it too difficult and hindered others from entering
- vi. Instead, their feet were swift running to evil – murder

8) God's original commands were designed to be a tutor that bring us to Christ

9) But religious people prefer to argue and blame

10) In our Christian experience, it's easy to see the faults in these Pharisees or the faults of others, but not so easy when those faults are in us

- i. When there is greed and wickedness in our hearts
- ii. When we bypass God's love and go through the religious motion
- iii. When we have pride preferring the best for ourselves
- iv. When we pretend that we have something that we don't
- v. When we put a burden in front of others that we won't carry
- vi. If we have any hatred toward others – that equals murder – shedding blood
- vii. Instead of giving real knowledge of God, we prefer legalism

11) What do we do when we realize that we are Scribes & Pharisees?

- i. We give glory to God
- ii. We thank God for opening our eyes to see truth about our true condition
- iii. We turn to God in repentance and thank Him for mercy & grace

iv. Unless you know where you really are, you're living in deception

12) If **peter** can be a hypocritical liar, how much more can we? (Gal 2)

13) **1 John 1:8** If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

14) **1 Tim 1:15** Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance:  
Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst

15) **This confession opens the floodgates of heaven for grace to flow**