

Series: The Gospel of Luke

Sermon: Putrid Piety

Passage: Luke 11:37-54 (ESV)

Illustration:

Need: Jesus declares the worthlessness of religious expression apart from a righteous heart.

I. Jesus and dirty dishes (11:29-32)

- Jesus does not hate his opposition, rather he willingly accepts a meal invitation.
- Jesus was not beholden to the vast Pharisaical religious traditions (washings, etc).
- Jesus states clearly that no amount of piety and ritual can cleanse what is dirty and sinful on the inside.
- Jesus says that if our inside (heart) is clean then our outside (what others see) will be too.

II. The Woes of religious hypocrisy (11:33-36)

- Jesus calls out the Pharisees and lawyers (scribes) on 6 of their specific hypocrisies.
- “Woe to you religious celebrity” - you are most pitied if this is true of you.
 - you’ve traded empty ritual for genuine character.
 - you’ve become consumed with pride and lack humility.
 - you look like one to follow but your actions actually defile.
 - you heap heavy burdens on others without compassion or willingness to help or assist them.
 - you follow in the footsteps of those who celebrated but boldly rejected God’s word.
 - not only have you rejected the truth but you are hindering others from believing.
- As a result of Jesus’ bold and pointed rebuke, these Pharisees all the more to destroy him.

III. Principles & Application

- Religious activity will never have any affect on one’s sinful heart. God alone cleanses and makes us new and that only on the basis of faith in the word and work of Jesus, Messiah.
- Beware the dangers of hidden internal sin:
 - (seen in the Pharisees and lawyers) pride, arrogance, prejudice/discrimination, vanity, apathy, disbelief/rejection, hindering the belief of others.
 - anger, hatred, grudges, perversion, deceit, jealousy, envy, bitterness, etc.
- Open your heart to God’s examination and adjustment.