



"Jesus rebukes the Religious Leaders!"

Luke 11:37-54

1. Don't be a leader or person with an ungodly agenda! (Pharisee)

- **Luke 11:37**
- The Pharisees had a bad motive and agenda! They tried to trap Jesus constantly so that they could get Him charged criminally and gone!
- **Why?** Jesus came to tear down their religious system! They were liars, arrogant, always looked down on others because of their pride and position, they were hard hearted and even murderers! They did not want to give up their life styles or positions...they loved their titles and power!
- The issue was this in **verse 38** – they had their rules, their ceremonies and their formulas...Jesus came to show that it is all about the heart and not the outside public things that matter! WHY? The right heart will produce the right things!!!
- **Notice** – "first PERFORMING the hand-washing ceremony required by Jewish custom."
- The Pharisee was concerned about ceremony not hygiene! They were all about show!
- **Washed** = nothing in the law of God actually required this...it was a Pharisee thing!
- The Pharisees washed like this to "wash off any defilement" that they may have touched. It was an OUTSIDE performance instead of having an inside humbleness!
- **Verse 39** – "...you are careful to clean the OUTSIDE...but INSIDE you are filthy - full of greed and wickedness!"
- **Fact** – External Ceremonies and Man's Traditions do nothing about the inside moral issues! It's just a mask!
- **Illustration** – Would you drink from this cup? See, external appearance is not the same at all as internal reality!
- **Verse 40** – "Fools!"
- **Fool** = according to **Psalm 14:1** – "A fool says in his heart that there is no God!"
- **So, what in the world would this mean?** That they have created their "own god" with their ceremonies! How scary is that? They OUTWARDLY show that they "serve God", but inwardly created and serve their "own god!" They are FOOLS!
- **Matthew 7:18-23** comes in to play here on this topic!
- **It's so easy to LOOK like they serve God, but their actions show that they have created their "own god" and justify their own sin!** I mean, how else does a person continue in sin, and still think that God is actually good with it? That's scary!

- **Verse 41** – Jesus is showing that even their giving was corrupt! Giving that honors God comes from a right heart...not just a wallet!!!
- A faithful heart of giving is what God accepts...not an external show! It is all about your right heart attitude before God Almighty when you give! The Pharisees were hypocrites.
- **Verse 42** – The Tithe or First Fruit or 10%. Jesus does not say that this is not to be given. “You should Tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things.”
- What more important things? The Right Heart!!!!
- **How do we know what Jesus is talking about?** **Verse 42** – “but you ignore justice and the love of God.” This is a **HEART ISSUE!**

2. Position and power are the downfall of many!

- **Verse 43** – “What sorrow awaits you Pharisees!”
- The Pharisees were all concerned their rank, position, power and being seen! They “love to sit in the seats of honor in the synagogues and receive respectful greetings as people walk in the marketplace.”
- **Verse 44** – “Yes, what sorrow awaits you!” Jesus tells them here that their lives are literally hidden sources of corruption and defilement!
- **“Graves”** = death
- **Verse 45** – this guy is a lawyer! He got offended at Jesus’ rebuke of them!
- Jesus says again “What sorrow awaits you EXPERTS in religious law!” Jesus absolutely once again nails their arrogance!!!
- **Verse 46** – “For you CRUSH people with unbearable religious demands (burdens), and yet you never lift a finger to ease the burden!”
- Jesus was saying that their beliefs and belief system is sin!
- **Verse 47** – **WOW!** Enough said right here!!!! Jesus calls them out as murderers! Since they build monuments for the prophets...they are going along with the murders **verse 48!**

**** Truly scary... Verse 49-51!**

- There is no Old Testament quotation for what Jesus says here...this is a brand new direct warning of JUDGMENT just for them!
- How much more scary can it get for these prideful, arrogant and sinful religious leaders?

Closing: The Key of Knowledge is removed to keep the door locked!

- **Verse 52**
- These Pharisees were directly, and on purpose shoving God and Jesus out of the picture! They were causing countless others to stumble and remain blind!
- They had locked up the Truth of the Scriptures and thrown away the key by falsely representing God!
- Human traditions were their god! Made up ceremonies were their god!
- The blood of others would be on their hands forever! For Eternity, the Pharisees would be in torment because of their hard hearts...their choice of ignoring Jesus!
- **Matthew 23:15** – “child of Hell you yourselves are!” ...Jesus is talking to the Pharisees.