

Luke 11:37-53 *As he was speaking, a Pharisee asked him to dine with him. So he went in and reclined at the table. When the Pharisee saw this, he was amazed that he did not first perform the ritual washing before him, "Now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but you are full of greed and evil. Fools! Didn't he who made the outside make the inside too? But give from what is within to the poor, and then everything is clean for you. But woe to you Pharisees! You give a tenth of mint, rue, and every kind of herb, and you bypass justice and love for God. These things you should have done without neglecting others. Woe to you Pharisees! You love the front seat in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces. Woe to you! You are like unmarked graves; the people who walk over them don't know it." One of the experts in the law answered him, "Teacher, when you say these things you insult us too." Then he said: "Woe also to you experts in the law! You load people with burdens that are hard to carry, and yet you yourselves don't touch these burdens with one of your fingers. Woe to you! You build tombs for the prophets, and your fathers killed them. Therefore, you are witnesses that you approve the deeds of your fathers, for they killed them and you build their monuments. Because of this, the wisdom of God said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles,' and some of them they will kill and persecute,' so that this generation may be held responsible for the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary. "Yes, I tell you, this generation will be held responsible. Woe to you experts in the law! You have taken away the key to knowledge. You didn't go in yourselves, and you hindered those who were trying to go in. When he left there, the scribes and the Pharisees to oppose him fiercely and to cross examine him about how many things; they were lying in wait for them to trap him something he said.*

Ever heard, "do as I say, not as I do." In some ways, this was the life of the Pharisee. Jesus in confronting them here, in a very fresh way. People, I have some bad news - WE ARE THE PHARISEES! We are so good about thinking and talking about what others should be doing. We are so good at pointing out what others do as wrong, and with that, putting ourself on a pedestal. In a devotional I shared recently, the discussion was that the human race is born into sin; selfishness, a need for power, control and authority, greed and envy. The Pharisees were all about following the rules, but not the heart of the 'law.' Jesus is definitely wagging his finger at them. They are literally the pot calling the kettle black.

Now, let's be honest. We don't like when people point out our own flaws and lack of logic. We put our burdens on them - get a job! Get your life together! But, what do we do to help?!?

****think of homeless with no job**

You/we give, but we forget justice and love. I was reading about Emmet Till the other day. And MLK Jr.

You cause their problems, you 'solve' their problems and then build a monument to yourself.
Hmm...

This is all religion. Jesus is pointing out in a very direct way to the Pharisees that all they think about is how they have met the law, but lost caring and loving people. People that they are supposed to be leading.

Do as I say, not as I do. These are the rules, this is the box to stay in, and stay in it or else.

Or else what?

I am giving you a warning here. I grave warning. Don't be religious? You truly don't want to be called someone who is religious. It is not a compliment.

Jesus always looks at the heart. Being religious is really being self-serving and making yourself, your church, your self-righteous actions and you become an idol. We need to have some self-evaluation. We need to allow the Lord to show us what we are thinking and doing, and then correcting us.

Practice of early church - examen

Showing up here on Sunday is just looking good, on the outside; that is what Jesus is speaking against.

Jesus pronounces woes on:

- **Form over substance** — tithing herbs but neglecting justice and love of God
- **Prestige over service** — seeking honor in synagogues and marketplaces
- **Dead inside** — like “unmarked graves” that appear clean but are spiritually dead
- **Burdening others** — imposing impossible rules while not following them
- **Covering up sin** — building tombs of prophets while their killers remain unrepentant

The Core Issue

The central theme is **the danger of focusing on the external while ignoring the internal**. Religious leaders were concerned with appearances, rules, and status, but Jesus demands a heart that reflects God's love, justice, and humility

