

## It's What's on the Inside that Matters

Luke 11:37-44

<sup>37</sup> Now when He had spoken, a Pharisee asked Him to have lunch with him; and He went in, and reclined at the table. <sup>38</sup> When the Pharisee saw it, he was surprised that He had not first ceremonially washed before the meal. <sup>39</sup> But the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and of the platter; but inside of you, you are full of robbery and wickedness. <sup>40</sup> You foolish ones, did not He who made the outside make the inside also? <sup>41</sup> But give that which is within as charity, and then all things are clean for you. <sup>42</sup> "But woe to you Pharisees! For you pay tithes of mint and rue and every kind of garden herb, and yet disregard justice and the love of God; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others. <sup>43</sup> Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the chief seats in the synagogues and the respectful greetings in the market places. <sup>44</sup> Woe to you! For you are like concealed tombs, and the people who walk over them are unaware of it."

The Pharisees started out as a serious minded group that hoped to restore spiritual truth to the people. They emphasized all the things that were required to keep the Law outwardly. Over time they lost sight of the internal relationship with God and replaced that longing with outward action. Yet, they failed to reach what they originally intended. Our heart, what we are on the inside, matters most. The actions of our lives are driven by the heart.

1. The Pharisees started out right.

James 4:8, Hebrews 7:19, 10:1

2. God knows the heart.

Psalms 44:21, 139:1-3, Proverbs 17:3, 1 Thessalonians 2:4, Matthew 12:35

3. The Pharisees inward motives were wrong.

Luke 6:45

Hypocrites - loving God with their mouth while denying Him in their hearts

Matthew 15:7-11

Lovers of money

Luke 16:14-15

Self-righteous

Luke 18:9-14

Desire to be noticed

Matthew 23:5

Use technicalities to excuse disobedience of the Law

Matthew 23:16, 17, Mark 7:11-13

4. God wants our hearts to be made right.

Psalms 51:10, Acts 15:9, 2 Corinthians 4:16, Ezekiel 11:19, Jeremiah 24:7, Romans 5:5