

What Religious People Are Like

Luke 11:33-54

As we watch Jesus' rebuke of these wolves, what we are going to see is what religious people are like and how to avoid the deception of religion.

- **RELIGIOUS PEOPLE CLOSE THEIR SPIRITUAL EYES.**

"No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a basket, but on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. ³⁴Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness. ³⁵Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness. ³⁶If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light." Luke 11:33-36 (English Standard Version)

The message of the "light" analogy = "Jesus is the Light of the world, so we need to put Jesus and everything connected to Jesus at the center of our lives."

- **RELIGIOUS PEOPLE MAKE UP THEIR OWN RULES.**

While Jesus was speaking, a Pharisee asked him to dine with him, so he went in and reclined at table. ³⁸The Pharisee was astonished to see that he did not first wash before dinner. ³⁹And the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. ⁴⁰You fools! Did not he who made the outside make the inside also? ⁴¹But give as alms those things that are within, and behold, everything is clean for you. Luke 11:37-41 (ESV)

Religion: Making up your own system of rules and regulations to look holy and feel justified before God.

Why are religion and religious rules wrong? Because they emphasize the external, not the internal.

- **RELIGIOUS PEOPLE'S PRIMARY MOTIVATION IS PRIDE.**

"But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and every herb, and neglect justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. ⁴³Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the best seat in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces. ⁴⁴Woe to you! For you are like unmarked graves, and people walk over them without knowing it." Luke 11:42-44 (ESV)

- **RELIGIOUS PEOPLE CLING TO THEIR IDOL.**

Idol = anyone or anything that is the most important thing in your life; the thing that replaces God

One of the lawyers answered him, "Teacher, in saying these things you insult us also." ⁴⁶And he said, "Woe to you lawyers also! For you load people with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers. ⁴⁷Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets whom your fathers killed. ⁴⁸So you are witnesses and you consent to the deeds of your fathers, for they killed them, and you build their tombs. ⁴⁹Therefore also the Wisdom of God said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute,' ⁵⁰so that the blood of all the prophets, shed from the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation, ⁵¹from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, it will be required of this generation. ⁵²Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter yourselves, and you hindered those who were entering." Luke 11:45-52 (ESV)

For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:20 (ESV)

Justification = the act of God in which He (1) thinks of our sins as forgiven and Christ's righteousness as belonging to us; and, (2) declares us to be righteous in His sight

And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, . . . Romans 4:5 (ESV)

See also Romans 3-5; Philippians 3:9; 1 Corinthians 1:30; Galatians 2:16; 3:11.