

Sunday, 09-03-2023

2023-2024 Fall Quarter  
Unit I: "Love Completes, Law Falls Short"

Jesus Eats with a Pharisee  
Bible Background: Luke 11:37-44  
Printed Text: Luke 11:37-44 KJV/NIV  
Devotional Reading: 1 Samuel 15:19-23

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**Prayer:** *Our noble and all-wise God, thank You for the example You have given us to follow. We humbly pray that our outward appearance mirrors the love and sincerity we have in our hearts for You and our fellowmen. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen*

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**Unifying Lesson Principle:**

1. Rules and ceremonies provide necessary parameters for everyone. ***How do we avoid the hollow legalism that sometimes results?*** Jesus demands a heartfelt commitment to justice and love as demonstration of true faith rather than mere outward appearance to the law.
    - a. Self-reflection to ensure the heart is in the right place; if not, seek forgiveness and repent. Don't just go through the motions to please man or self. Purify self before entering into the house of the Lord (**Sat: Exodus 30:17-21**).
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**Lesson Objectives:**

1. Compare and contrast godly attitudes versus religious appearances.
  2. Empathize with persons who have experienced injustice and inequality.
  3. Love others by praying for and with those who experience injustice and inequality.
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**Devotional Reading: Tue: 1 Samuel 15:19-23**

- (v. 22) – If the heart is not pure in its motives, regardless of sacrifices (actions), they are done in vain. Obedience is demonstrating love, compassion, and mercy; not just following rules with the wrong intentions (**Psalms 40:6-8; Proverbs 21:2-3; Jeremiah 7:19-28; Hebrews 10:5-10**)
  - (v. 23) – Rebellion/stubbornness equate to witchcraft and idol worship (**Leviticus 20:6-8; Deuteronomy 13:12-18**)
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**Exposition and Application of the Scripture: Sun: – Be Cleansed Inside and Out – Luke 11:37-44**

**A. The Invitation of the Pharisee (vv. 37-38)**

- Don't judge/criticize someone for doing something I won't do myself (**Matthew 7:1-5**). Just because some people accept certain behavior(s) doesn't mean I need to conform (**Matthew 11:16-19**). For some people, rules are more important than the message (**Mon: Mark 7:2-3**). Some denominations equate religion and ceremonial practices (going through the motions) as the same. Those weak in the faith will eventually backslide if rules are enforced while neglecting the message and its purpose (**Matthew 23:23-28**)

**B. Jesus Rebukes the Pharisees (vv. 39-41)**

- My actions back-up what's in my heart (**1 Samuel 16:7**). It's not always what I say, but what I do that have an effect (**Mon: Mark 7:5-6**). My relationship with Jesus Christ is based on what's on the inside and not on the outside. Giving should be part of the repentance process and not for self-elevation (**Proverbs 14:28-35**).

**C. Woe to the Pharisees (v. 42)**

- Ignoring the "Woe" given by Jesus creates sorrow and distress. Laws/Rules doesn't purify the complete man. Outward appearance seem appropriate, but the heart isn't into doing anything extra (**Isaiah 29:13; Ezekiel 33:31**). Giving should encompass love, justice, and mercy towards all. It's easier to do the bare minimum than to make sacrifices.

**D. More Woes to the Scribes and Pharisees (vv. 43-44)**

- Don't focus on outward appearances while the inward man's actions is destined to hell. True religion engages and promotes the Fruits of the Spirit (**Galatians 5:22-23**). Scrutinization of principles such as hand washing (v. 38), giving of tithe (v. 42), the Sabbath Day (**Luke 13:15-17**), interaction with sinners (**Luke 15:2**) and other ceremonial practices doesn't compare to the love/justice of salvation through Jesus Christ. Don't let the praises of men become addictive. Don't contaminate others with negativity/rules made by man pushing people away from Jesus Christ instead of drawing them nearer to Him.