

The Mission

the final year



**looks aren't
everything**

Luke 11-12

luke 11:37–44

While Jesus was speaking, a Pharisee asked him to dine with him, so he went in and reclined at table. The Pharisee was astonished to see that he did not first wash before dinner. And 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. You fools! Did not he who made the outside make the inside also? But give as alms those things that are within, and behold, everything is clean for you.

luke 11:37–44

“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. Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the best seat in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces. Woe to you! For you are like unmarked graves, and people walk over them without knowing it.”

was Jesus a slob?

- Isn't cleanliness next to Godliness?
- The Pharisees rightly believed that one should follow the Mosaic law to stay ritually clean.
- Uncleanliness was not a physical state, it was a spiritual state that defiled you.
- They believed that for the Messiah to come Israel needed to be holy (clean) before the Lord.

was Jesus a slob?

- They set up their own rules about what makes a person clean or unclean.
- Jewish rabbis taught that eating food without ritual washing would make the food unclean and when you ate the unclean food you became unclean.
 - There were precise measurements of water needed to ritually wash your hands.
- The Pharisee is astonished because Jesus, a rabbi, is saying He does not believe what they teach.

looks aren't everything

- The Pharisees were adept at presenting themselves in the best possible light.
- But inside they were so far from God they couldn't recognize Jesus for who He is.
 - **John 5:39–43:** *You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. I do not receive glory from people. But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him.*

looks aren't everything

- The harder we fight to keep up appearances, the further we find ourselves from God.
- It takes more energy and effort to keep up appearances than it does to repent and ask for forgiveness.
- **Isaiah 57:15:** *For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in a high and holy place, and with the oppressed and humble in spirit, to restore the spirit of the lowly and revive the heart of the contrite.*

the outcome

Luke 11:53–54: As he went away from there, the scribes and the Pharisees began to press him hard and to provoke him to speak about many things, lying in wait for him, to catch him in something he might say.

luke 12:1–3

In the meantime, when so many thousands of the people had gathered together that they were trampling one another, he began to say to his disciples first, “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. Therefore whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed on the housetops.

hypocrisy

- Leaven is an ingredient that when tainted can ruin a whole ball of dough.
- The word for leaven is a homonym for “word.”
 - The words of the Pharisee expose their hypocrisy.
- But the time is coming when the disciples will freely and powerfully proclaim the wonders of Jesus.

luke 12:4–7

“I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him! Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.”

take heart

- The religious heart will turn to fighting when their added rules are not followed.
 - “Well, they’re not a real Christian then...”
 - “You can’t do that and call yourself a Christian...”
- Jesus is warning His disciples that their greatest threat will not first come from the outside world, but the religious world they live in.
- But Jesus sees it all, so we can walk confidently into what God has called us to.

luke 12:8–12

“And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God. And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”

be strong in the Spirit

- Jesus basically says, “The trouble is coming, but be strong and stay faithful.”
- “Their intractable opposition to the apostles’ testimony and to the Holy Spirit’s work solidifies their rejection of the message and seals their fate and that of those who follow their lead.”
 - ECONT, pg. 506
- Blaspheming the Holy Spirit is rejecting His work in the person of Jesus.

be strong in the Spirit

- The disciples would be dragged before the councils just like Jesus says.
- And in those moments the Holy Spirit comes and fills their mouths.
- There are times when you need to say something, you know you need to say something, but you have no idea where to begin and you just need to start talking and trust God.

application

- Fight against the hypocrisy in your life.
- When truly living out the Bible in your life, expect religious people to get upset.
- When persecution comes, stand strong.

reflection

- The ultimate sin to is to reject Jesus and His work. Be sure you have not rejected that.
- Ask God to root out the hypocrisy in your life and lead you to a place of repentance and accepting His forgiveness.
- Ask the Father to give you strength to stand when you need to stand.