

- I) V37-38 INTRO: And as He spoke a certain Pharisee asked Him to dine with him So He went in and
  - a) Jesus has just spoken of the sign of Jonah, and had given the parable of the lighted lamp
    - 1) As He is speaking, a Pharisee who was listening to Him speak invited Him for a meal
  
- II) FACT: The religious group known as Pharisees arose around 150 BC
  - a) They were Separate ones who desired to keep alive a reverence for the Law of Moses
    - 1) Many Jews had been in captivity in Babylon, and had returned to Israel, ignorant of the law
    - 2) The Pharisees desired for them to hold the law in honor, but soon became legalists
  
- III) AS IS ALWAYS THE CASE: What at one time was intended for good became tainted with flesh
  - a) The Law of Moses became overlaid with traditional interpretations
    - 1) The traditional interpretations were regarded as being communicated to Moses by God
    - 2) THE RESULT: The oral traditions became equal in importance to the written word
  
- IV) DURING THE TIME OF JESUS: Pharisees were considered the most righteous people
  - a) They were moral, zealous, prayerful, generous, and overtly religious (pray, fast, gave)
    - 1) People regarded them highly, as models of genuinely religious people
    - 2) Mt 5:20 I say to you that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven
  
- V) SADLY: Many were also distinctly blind to their own sin and judgmental of others (Lu 7:39)
  - a) Their religious traditions and good works actually blinded them to their own sinfulness
    - 1) Lu 18:9-14 (Jesus) spoke this parable to some who *trusted in themselves* that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men - extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."
  
- VI) THIS MAN IS A PHARISEE: And is apparently interested in hearing what Jesus has to say
  - a) He invites Jesus over for a meal, and Jesus accepts the invitation
    - 1) V38 As He begins to eat, the Pharisee is genuinely amazed that Jesus did not first wash
    - 2) Mk 7:3-4 The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands in a special way, holding the tradition of the elders. When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other things, which they have received and hold, like the washing of cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and couches.
  
- VII) V39-40 THEN: The Lord said to him Now *you Pharisees* make the *outside* of the cup and dish clean
  - a) Jesus saw clearly the heart of this man, who was like many of his fellow Pharisees (1 Sa 16:7)
    - 1) They simply paid too much attention to outer formalities and disregarded the spirit of the law
    - 2) 2 Co 3:6 the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.
  
- VIII) IN RESPONSE: Jesus directly condemns the religious hypocrisy of the Scribes and Pharisees
  - a) He saves His most scathing rebukes for the Religious authority of Israel
    - 1) WHY: Because they are not going to heaven, and close the door to others entering in (Mt 23:13)

- I) IN THE FOLLOWING VERSES: No less than *six times* He pronounces Woes unto them
  - a) WHY: Because they were leading people astray, through their hypocrisy
    - 1) They lived for the honor and praise of people, while not genuinely caring about them
  
- II) V39-40 YOU: Pharisees make the outside of the cup and dish clean but your inward part is full of
  - a) Religious behavior does not necessarily reveal genuine love for God or man
    - 1) Jer 2:22 For though you wash yourself with lye, and use much soap, Yet your iniquity is marked before Me," says the Lord GOD.
    - 2) You cleanse the outside of the cup and dish (Coffee cup with paper and coffee grounds)
  
- III) YOU MAKE SURE EVERYTHING IS CEREMONIALLY CLEANSED: But *inside*, you are full of sin
  - a) You need a *purified heart*, not just washed hands and cooking and eating utensils
    - 1) Mk 7:20-23 He said: What comes out of a man is what makes him `unclean.' For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. *All these evils come from inside and make a man `unclean.'*"
  
- IV) V40 FOOLISH ONES: Did not He who made the outside make the inside also
  - a) God is not pleased with outward forms of religion, but desire genuine faith, from the heart
    - 1) Ps 51:1-3 Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.
  
- V) V41 BUT: Rather give alms of such things as you have; then indeed all things are clean to you
  - a) Generosity from a sincere heart of love for God and man reveals what God truly desires
    - 1) 1 Jn 3:17 Whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?
    - 2) Heb 13:16 Do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased
  
- VI) V42 BUT: Woe to you Pharisees *for you tithe* mint and rue and all manner of herbs and pass by
  - a) You are legalistic nitpickers: You make sure to give your offerings, but do not love people
    - 1) KEY: He isn't saying they are not to be givers but that they give improperly
    - 2) SADLY: They emphasized the outside (giving) without developing the inside (genuine love)
    - 3) Micah 6:8 He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you  
But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?
  
- VII) V43 WOE: To you Pharisees for you love the best seats in the synagogues and greetings
  - a) They prized the chief seats in the synagogues: Front seats, so they could be seen
  - b) They loved the public attention they would receive
    - 1) Instead of humility, they were filled with self-importance
  
- VIII) V44 WOE: To you scribes and Pharisees hypocrites for you are like graves *which are not seen*
  - a) In Jewish law, coming into contact with a grave renders you ceremonially unclean (Nu 19:16)
    - 1) POINT: If people follow your teachings, they will be defiled
  
- IX) V45 THEN: One of the lawyers answered and said to Him Teacher by saying these things You
  - a) This is all taking place at a meal, and Jesus is calmly confronting them, and a lawyer speaks up
    - 1) HIS POINT: You are harsh, and You are insulting us (though we influence them!)

- I) V46 AND: He said Woe to you also lawyers For you load men with burdens hard to bear and you
  - a) Your teachings only enslave people, making them bound to joyless legalism
    - 1) Your teachings only *produce fatigue* from effort to become acceptable to God
    - 2) This produces heavy condemnation ministries, producing bondage
  
- II) HIS POINT: You have no love for people, because you ensnare and burden them
  - a) GRACE SETS YOU FREE: And releases you from counting how many evil things you have done
    - 1) Mt 11:28-30 Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and *you will find rest* for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."
  
- III) V47-48 WOE: To you For you build the tombs of the prophets and your fathers killed them
  - a) You want people to think that by building tombs for dead prophets, you are honoring them
    - 1) By building their tombs, you are simply finishing off what your father's began
  
- IV) V49-51 THEREFORE: The wisdom of God also said I will send them prophets and apostles and some
  - a) POINT: God's wisdom is revealed as some reject His message, while others respond
    - 1) Israel's rejection of Messiah only served to reveal His grace towards man
    - 2) It has also resulted in salvation to those who would believe who were Gentiles
  
- V) THE FACT IS: God will justly deal with those who have rejected His grace and mercy
  - a) V51 This goes from A to Z, from Abel to Zechariah
    - 1) This references the arrangement of books in Hebrew bibles:
    - 2) Abel (Genesis) to Zechariah (2 Chronicles 24:20-22)
  
- VI) V52 WOE: To you lawyers For you have taken away the key of knowledge You did not enter
  - a) The ones who were supposed to unlock the scriptures actually are locking it
    - 1) They buried the grace and mercy of God under a load of legalistic traditions
    - 2) They substituted works righteousness for Grace
  
- VII) V53-54 AND: As He said these things to them the scribes and the Pharisees began to assail Him
  - a) His warnings did not reach their callused hearts, and they began verbally assaulting Him
    - 1) Their curiosity and outward religion was revealed for what it was: hypocrisy
    - 2) FACT: How I respond to conviction reveals the depth of my relationship to God