

Sunday School Lesson, Tuesday, August 29th, & Sunday, September 3rd, 2023

by Pastor Dwight Benoit

Fall Quarter Lessons ~ September, October, and November 2023

Lesson 14 – General Theme: “GOD’S Law Is LOVE!”

[That is, at the root of **GOD’S Law is LOVE!** **GOD’S Loving** revealed **HIS Divine Law** to us for our benefit. If we respond because of our *Love* for **GOD**, then we will *obey* fittingly.]

Unit 1: September’s Theme: “LOVE Completes, Law Falls Short!”

Subject: “JESUS Confronts Hypocrisy”

Devotional Reading: 1 Samuel 15: 19-23

Lesson Text: Luke 11: 37-44

Key Word(s)...

Hypocrite, hupokrites (hoop-ok-ree-tace’), meaning an actor under an assumed character; a dissembler [charlatan, imposter, trickster, backslider]

Pharisee, pharisaioi (far-is-ah’-yos) a separatist; “separate one;” a sect that started after the Jewish exile in Babylon... they sought for distinction and praise by outward observances of external rites and by outward forms of piety: ceremonial washings, fasting, prayers, and alms giving... comparatively negligent of genuine piety: they pride themselves on their fancied ‘good works.’

JESUS call them ‘*hypocrites*’ because ‘they were not as concerned with actually being **RIGHTeous** in their hearts.’

Lesson Context...

Luke’s **Gospel** account of **JESUS CHRIST**, presents Himself as a “*eyewitness*,” pointing out **JESUS** as **The Son of man**, **The SAVIOR** of the world; a *COMpassionate* Physician (Colossians 4: 14);

The Gospel for *Gentiles*—that **GOD** is interested in ALL men everywhere, not just to the Jews.

Luke is **The Gospel** to the “*outcast and sinners*.” [tax-collectors, prodigals, harlots];

Luke is **The Gospel** for The Poor, Women, Children, **The Gospel** of Prayer, and Praise...

Today’s Lesson Text shows **JESUS’** journey to Jerusalem (Luke 9: 51) Preaching—proclaiming **The KINGdom of GOD** [note, Luke 11: 17, “...said unto them...” v. 27, “...as **HE spake** these things...,” and v. 37, “...and as **HE spake**...” [‘spake,’ *laleo*’ (lal-eh’-o) meaning, “I speak,”

I proclaim, I preach or herald.” Teaching—Luke 11: 1-4, *didasko* (did-as’-ko) that is, instruct how to Live, grow, mature in **The KINGdom of GOD**, and Healing—Luke 11: 14, 15, *lasis* (ee’-as-is), that is the **SPIRITual** process of **GOD’S GRACE** causing the *supernatural* (Divine, Authoritative, Authenticating) Healing of **JESUS CHRIST**. Emphasizing ‘*internal*’ spiritual transformation vs. ‘*external*’ hypocritical performance. (Luke 11: 33-36)

Lesson Participation...

Woe to the Religious... *threskeia*, (thrace-ke’-ah), ceremonial observance, underlying [hidden, concealed] sense...

1. Ceremonially Clean, but inwardly Unclean. (Luke 11: 39-41)

2. Obey GOD in Tithing but Ignore Love and Justice. (Luke 11: 42)

3. Crave Prominence and Honor. (Luke 11: 43)

4. Mislead Others to become Unclean and Corrupted. (Luke 11: 44)

a. **The Provider of the Meal.** “A certain *Pharisee...*”

His *Purpose...* Hostility *not* Hospitality... to find Fault with **JESUS** and to Discredit **HIM...**

To attack **JESUS** privately and *not* Publicly... His question and invitation disguised his real intentions... the invitation fit His character of “tempting **HIM.**” (Luke 11: 16) To “entangle **HIM** in **HIS** talk.” (Matthew 22: 15) Yet it was the enemy who was always shamed.

1. Ceremonially Clean, but inwardly Unclean. (Luke 11: 39-41)

Are You Clean ceremonially [outside] and *not* inside? Like washing dishes, only the outside of the cup or bottom of the plate and *not* the inside or the top of the plate that you eat off.

Point: Look the part but the Heart full of... everybody else has *issues* but You have none...

“...full of wickedness...” that is, disobeying **GOD** and refusing to follow **JESUS, WHO is**

The Way of RIGHTeousness established by **GOD.** (Romans 10: 3-4)

Point: a. **JESUS CHRIST is GOD’S RIGHTeousness** (Romans 10: 3-5; 3: 21-25)

b. A man, Religious or Non-religious, cannot establish his own **RIGHTeousness.**

He cannot make himself Clean enough to approach **GOD: not** by works, *nor* by

Religious ceremony and worship, *nor* by Cleaning up the outside of His platter or life.

2. Obey GOD in Tithing but Ignore Love and Justice. (Luke 11: 42)

Don’t emphasize ‘the minors’ and ignored ‘the majors.’ Don’t emphasize ‘petty things and ignore ‘important things.’

3. Crave Prominence and Honor. (Luke 11: 43) The Woe [regret, pending pain, grief] of Pride.

Those eager for honor and praise, don’t make good *Disciples* of **CHRIST.**

4. Mislead Others to become Unclean and Corrupted. (Luke 11: 44) Like graves, white-washed, marble-mausoleum on the outside, but dead rotten corpses on the inside.

Do You deceive the people so much the people do not realize their corruption and walk unaware as ‘dead men walking?’

“Even so ye also outwardly appear **RIGHTeous** unto men, but within ye are full of **hypocrisy and iniquity.**” (Matthew 23: 28)

“Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is **hypocrisy. For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known.**” (Luke 12: 1, 2)

“For it is a shame even to speak expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the Faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils, speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron.” (I Timothy 4: 1, 2)

“Pure **CHRISTianity** requires that we **LOVE GOD, our Neighbors then Ourselves.**”