

Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont
Pastor: Pastor Dwight Benoit
Superintendent: Ordained Minister Samuel O. Simon
Lesson # 1 August 29, 2023 – September 03, 2023

Unit I: LOVE Completes, Law Falls Short

Subject: JESUS Confronts Hypocrisy

Text: Luke 11: 37-44

Key Verse:

The LORD said to him, “Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness (Luke 11: 39, NIV).

Lesson Pointers:

- Two People (Luke 11: 37-41)
- Three Woes (Luke 11: 42-44)

Introduction:

Counterfeit behavior: there are people who sometimes counterfeit themselves by pretending to be someone that they are not. You see scandals arise when people say they believe or value one thing but act in another way that goes against their values. JESUS CHRIST had no tolerance for hypocritical behavior, especially from the religious leaders of HIS day. JESUS Confronts Hypocrisy!

Lesson Pointer # 1

- Two People (Luke 11: 37-41)

Jesus Christ and a Pharisee: Jesus Christ after preaching on wickedness and judgment, and how they may live in a manner indicative of their spiritual health. A Pharisee invited Jesus Christ to eat with him, and Jesus Christ went and reclined at the table (Luke 11: 37). It was the custom or common practice for the Jews to cleans or wash their hands before eating. But the Pharisee were surprised when Jesus Christ did not first wash HIS hands before meal (Luke 11: 38). This act by Jesus Christ gave HIM the opportunity to teach those who attended the meal a lesson on cleaning not only on the outside but on the inside as well. By washing the outside of the cup or dish presents an obvious problem, because while the outside might appear to be clean, the inside that touches food or drink will remain unclean. Jesus Christ used this to rebuke the Pharisee attitudes and behaviors, and to explain to the Pharisee that they were more concerned with the outward display of purity than with the actual purity of their hearts and minds. The Pharisees’ inner impurity was evident in their public actions. But their inside (minds) were of greed, evil, and wickedness (Read Romans 1: 28-31; Mark 7: 20-23; Luke 16:14; Luke 11: 39). Jesus Christ rebuked the Pharisees by calling them foolish people, saying did not the one who made the outside make the inside also (Luke 11: 40)? Jesus Christ calling the Pharisees foolish intensified HIS indictment of their wicked behavior. Jesus Christ rhetorical question highlights that GOD made the whole person: the outside parts which are seen, and the inside parts which are not seen; everything that GOD made is perfect, because GOD is perfect (Read Matthew 5: 48). GOD the Father requires total purity from HIS creation. GOD our Father wants us to live lives that are pure both from the inside and the outside, and to not be concerned with appearances (read James 4:8).

JESUS Confronts Hypocrisy!

Lesson Pointer # 2

- **Three Woes/ Against Injustice (Luke 11: 42-44)**

Woe is an announcement proclaiming intended pain, threat, or grief. The word Woe is common in the Old Testament Prophets (Read Isaiah 5: 8-30; Micah 2: 1-2). JESUS CHRIST proclaimed such warnings, when HE proclaimed woes upon the teachers of the law and the Pharisees (Read Matthew 23: 13-32), (Luke 11: 42a). Because you give GOD a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs (Luke 11:42b).

Now the first woe came as a result of the Pharisees' keeping a minor command without showing regard for a weightier command. A tithe is the gift of a tenth from the larger whole (Read Genesis 14: 18-20). Herbs like mint and rue they grow wild and flourish without oversight and care from humans. The tithe of this kind would require great attention to detail from the Pharisees' because a tenth should come from all. Tithing should be a joyous act of love to GOD, but the Pharisees' made it a practice to demonstrate their rigorous obedience of the law, by disregarding insignificant herbs. The Pharisees' neglected justice and love of GOD by practicing the latter and not leaving the former undone (Luke 11: 42c).

The Second Woe is against Pride, a call out to the prideful and arrogant behavior of the Pharisees. Their love was misdirected, concerned for their own status rather than for others (Luke 11: 43).

The Third Woe is against Deadly Influence, JESUS CHRIST considered them (Pharisees) hypocrites because they claimed to honor the law while they ignored its core: loving GOD and others (Read Matthew 22: 37-39). Now if a Jew came in contact with a dead body, the person became unclean and would have to take a steps to be considered clean (Read Numbers 19: 11-22). Even if a person mistakenly walk over a grave, that person was considered unclean by the Pharisees. The behavior of the Pharisees were causing others to suffer grave harm and injustice (Luke 11: 44).

JESUS Confronts Hypocrisy!

Nuggets of the Lesson:

- 1) **The Pharisees prioritized the outward display of holiness rather than doing the important work of love, mercy, and justice.**
- 2) **GOD wants HIS people to experience holiness in all aspects of our lives.**
- 3) **As followers of JESUS CHRIST we must remember to honor the commands to love GOD, show justice, and to demonstrate merciful love, above any other traditions.**
- 4) **JESUS CHRIST had no tolerance for hypocritical behavior, especially from the religious leaders of HIS day.**