

WOE TO YOU PHARISEES

August 29, 21 | Luke 11:37-54 | Pastor Michael Foster

Jesus sees and cares about what's inside (vv. 37-41)

So beware of...

- a. Majoring on the minors and minoring on the majors (v. 42)
- b. Being driven by approval of man rather than God (v. 43)
- c. Hurting people when you think you're helping people (v. 44)
- d. Finding joy in the failures of others (v. 46)
- e. Thinking you are much different from those you frown upon (vv. 47-51)
- f. Making it difficult for people to find and follow God (v. 52)

Questions to consider:

Do you know peace with God and acceptance by God through faith in Jesus? (Romans 5:1-2)

Do you need forgiveness for something unclean on the inside of your life? (1 John 1:8-10)

Are you seeing people as individuals or categories?

Are you confusing precepts, principles, and preferences?

Who is an individual you can help to find and follow Jesus?

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

- Read the book of Galatians this week.
- Meditate on Matthew 11:28-30, Romans 8:1-4, Colossians 2:16-23
- Read these articles about identifying legalism:
<https://frankpowell.me/signs-legalism-jesus>
<https://careynieuwhof.com/pharisee/>
<https://radical.net/articles/three-signs-you-might-be-a-covert-legalist/>
Read "How should New Testament believers relate to the OT law" -
<https://bible.org/question/how-should-new-testament-believers-relate-ot-law>

- Watch "Free Indeed" by Tony Evans -
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xAXWPlyjYqs&fbclid=IwAR2Y1rer9SRU-HnebR5nVY2IsR_H202SBoaSaoJxolEhCYTpGPuU4IvSHXg
- Listen to "From the Inside Out" -
www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Ke37I7lpBs

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you most from the message?
2. Read John 1:14, which speaks of Jesus being full of "grace and truth." As you think about Jesus, in what ways do you see Him in the gospels full of grace and truth?
3. What has the grace of God and acceptance of God through Jesus meant to you personally?
4. Where have you experienced the effects of legalism or "Pharisaism" in the past?
5. Of the six things listed above to "beware of," which trap are you most tempted to fall into at times? Why?
6. Can you relate to feeling extra pressure today in the decisions you are making? Do you think Jesus wants you to feel such pressure? Why or why not? Remember Matthew 11:28-30 together.
7. Read Matthew 22:34-40. What Jesus says here is familiar to many of us, but how might it have sounded very different to the people He was teaching?
8. Is there anything on the inside of your life that needs some cleaning? Read 1 John 1:8-10 and consider what and when you might need to confess something to the Lord. And stand in His promise of forgiveness.
9. Spend some time reading Romans 14. How can this passage help us today?
10. Who is someone you can help to find and follow Jesus this week? How will you do it? How won't you do it?