

The Hypocrite

Matthew 15:1-20

Do what they say, but not what they do! Matthew 23:1ff)

Def. = a hypocrite is someone who pretends to be something he is not; a hypocrite pretends to obey God when in fact he disobeys God.

The Hypocrite...

- 1. Values tradition over obedience (2a) – They ask Jesus, “Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders?”**
- 2. Focuses on outward things (2b) – I refer here to the fact that the washing of hands is an external thing.**
- 3. Makes void the word of God (3-6)**
- 4. Honors God with his lips (7-8)**
- 5. Keeps his heart far from God (8)**

"For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." (Romans 14:17, ESV)

- 6. Gives God empty worship (9)**

7. Adheres to man-centered teaching (9)

Colossians 2:21-22 ESV

21 “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch”

22 (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings?

Titus 1:14 ESV

14 not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth.

8. Finds Jesus offensive (10-12)

9. Is not planted by God and will be rooted up (13)

10. Is a blind guide (14)

11. Is without understanding (15-16)

12. Needs a new heart (17-20)

Principle: what comes out of your mouth indicates what is in your heart.

Ephesians 4:29 ESV

29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

Principle: What you eat does not defile you. It may kill you, but it won't defile you spiritually! This was difficult for the initial Jewish followers of Jesus to grasp.

- Indeed, Peter himself had a hard time getting this (Acts 10-11) (Acts 10:10).
- Paul on more than one occasion declared all foods to be ceremonially clean (Romans 14:14, 20).
- Mark tells us that Jesus declared all foods to be clean (Mark 7:19).

Principle: It is our own sin that defiles us.

What comes out of the mouth is from the heart and it does defile a person. It is what is in our very nature and it is who we are and it defiles us.

Principle: What comes out is a stream of wickedness. We are in trouble. Matthew lists 7 things, but the list could be endless no doubt.

Hebrews 3:12-13 ESV

12 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.

13 But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

How does sin deceive us?

1. Makes hard the heart – sin is no longer sinful
2. Conceals the end – hides the destruction
3. Appears to be static – when it reality it is always seeking new ground in your heart

Three keys to overcoming sin:

1. Faith
2. One another
3. Perseverance