

The Pharisees and the Experts in the Law

Luke 11:37-54



A Pharisee

Where are they now?

Great start

Highly 'respected'

Fossilised

A danger for all spiritual
movements

A good idea >> routine >> rule



When Jesus had finished speaking, a Pharisee invited him to eat with him; so he went in and reclined at the table.



Nice to invite Jesus to your home - lunch time
Interested to know more/An opportunity to observe?

But the Pharisee was surprised when he noticed that Jesus did not first wash before the meal

Ceremonial tradition
Not in written the Law
Nothing about hygiene



Picking a confrontation – choose your battles wisely
– be sure of the facts

Jesus lets the light shine on their actions and motives.

Then 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. You foolish people! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also?"



Superficially OK but under the surface – rotten
God is interested in both – not impressed but just veneer

But now as for what is inside you--be generous to the poor, and everything will be clean for you.



An invitation to get it right (a “good eye”)
An example of a changed heart
Let the light in - self problem again

Three woes (a mark of pity & warning) for the Pharisees

Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.

Woe to you Pharisees, because you love the most important seats in the synagogues and respectful greetings in the marketplaces.

Woe to you, because you are like unmarked graves, which people walk over without knowing it."

Woe No. 1 for the Pharisees

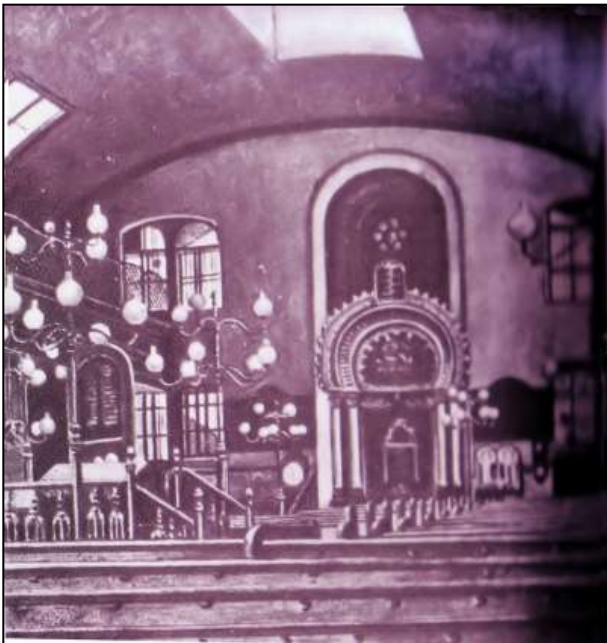
Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.



Wrong priorities - do the more visible? less demanding?

Woe No. 2 for the Pharisees

"Woe to you Pharisees, because you love the most important seats in the synagogues and respectful greetings in the marketplaces.



Love --- performance and public praise
- self problem again

Woe No. 3 for the Pharisees

"Woe to you, because you are like unmarked graves, which people walk over without knowing it."



see Numbers 19:16

Your influence to the unwary is contaminating

One of the experts in the law answered him,
"Teacher, when you say these things, you insult us also."



Experts in the Law also known as the Scribes
Job description -- Copy and interpret the scriptures

He recognises the criticisms apply to them too!

Insult? Or true?

3 Woes for the Scribes

Jesus replied, "And you experts in the law,

Woe to you, because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them.

Woe to you, because you build tombs for the prophets, and it was your ancestors who killed them. So you testify that you approve of what your ancestors did; they killed the prophets, and you build their tombs. Because of this, God in his wisdom said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and others they will persecute.' Therefore this generation will be held responsible for the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the beginning of the world, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, this generation will be held responsible for it all.

Woe to you experts in the law, because you have taken away the key to knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you have hindered those who were entering.

Woe No. 1 for the Scribes

Woe to you, because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them.

Not defending God's word
Distorting it , making harder for
people with man-made rules



Woe No. 2 for the Scribes

"Woe to you, because you build tombs for the prophets, and it was your ancestors who killed them. So you testify that you approve of what your ancestors did; they killed the prophets, and you build their tombs

Not changed just
like their ancestors
with same attitude



Woe No. 2 for the Scribes

Because of this, God in his wisdom said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and others they will persecute.' Therefore this generation will be held responsible for the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the beginning of the world, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, this generation will be held responsible for it all.

2 Chronicles 24:20 – 22

See a Hebrew Bible to get the point



Direst consequences terrible judgement on nation
Why for their time ? Messiah here!

Woe No. 3 for the Scribes

Woe to you experts in the law, because you have taken away the key to knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you have hindered those who were entering.



A Key should open ---
->> understand and obey

In the dark but resist those who
are seeking or have the light.

When Jesus went outside, the Pharisees and the teachers of the law began to oppose him fiercely and to besiege him with questions, waiting to catch him in something he might say.

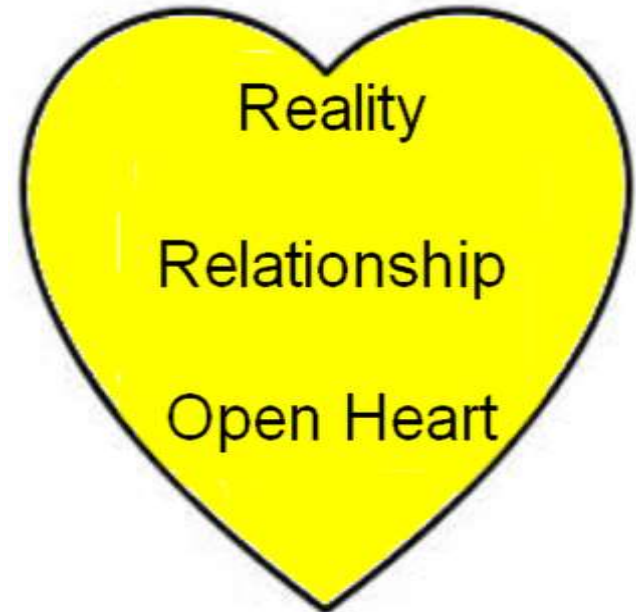


Give him a hard time ,resistant, arrogant, unteachable
See the increasing hostility to Jesus

What's the Lesson?

Ritual
Religion
Closed Mind

versus



It's not just a Pharisee problem!

**Why do we do what we do?
Auto or Manual?**

We are back to the previous verses

Luke 11:34-36 Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are healthy, your whole body also is full of light.

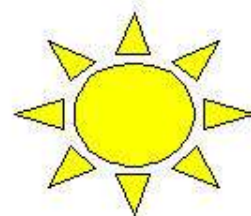


What's the Lesson?



**Reality grows from
Relationship**

**Shine on me, shine on me,
Let the light of Jesus shine on me.
Shine on me, shine on me,
Let the light of Jesus shine on me.**



Shine in me



Shine through me

