

## **GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES** (July 24, 2022)

FOR PERSONAL OR GROUP STUDY

Not many of us like to be “called on the carpet.” That idiom, that phrase, has been used for at least 150 years to indicate a scolding, a call to account, for a defect in our behavior. In the passage this morning Jesus called the religious leaders of His day on the carpet. In rapid succession Jesus pointed out their hypocrisy, their self-centered, self-serving, religious hollow-ness. They looked the part, said the right things, prayed, and went to church, but underneath ... no life, no heart, no humility, no genuine love for God.

At that point it was decision time ... they could humbly admit the truth and ask God for forgiveness, or they could deny the problem and shift the blame. They chose the latter.

I’m right there with them. I don’t like having my hypocrisy exposed for all to see. My first response is to get mad, deny, attack.

When Jesus calls us on the carpet His intention is to offer us life. Sometimes a hard word is the only way to get through our thick skulls and hard hearts. He knows all our secrets. He cares deeply about us. He is offering us grace, mercy, hope, eternity. May we (may I), with humility and honesty, turn toward Him, not away from Him.

### **Warnings and Woes** (Luke 11:37 – 12:3)

<sup>11:37</sup> While Jesus was speaking, a Pharisee asked him to dine with him, so he went in and reclined at table. <sup>38</sup> The Pharisee was astonished to see that he did not first wash before dinner. <sup>39</sup> And the Lord said to him, “Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness.

<sup>40</sup> You fools! Did not he who made the outside make the inside also? <sup>41</sup> But give as alms those things that are within, and behold, everything is clean for you.

<sup>42</sup> “But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and every herb, and neglect justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. <sup>43</sup> Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the best seat in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces. <sup>44</sup> Woe to you! For you are like unmarked graves, and people walk over them without knowing it.”

<sup>45</sup> One of the lawyers answered him, “Teacher, in saying these things you insult us also.” <sup>46</sup> And he said, “Woe to you lawyers also! For you load people with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers. <sup>47</sup> Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets whom your fathers killed. <sup>48</sup> So you are witnesses and you consent to the deeds of your fathers, for they killed them, and you build their tombs. <sup>49</sup> Therefore also the Wisdom of God

said, ‘I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute,’ <sup>50</sup> so that the blood of all the prophets, shed from the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation, <sup>51</sup> from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, it will be required of this generation. <sup>52</sup> Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter yourselves, and you hindered those who were entering.”

<sup>53</sup> As he went away from there, the scribes and the Pharisees began to press him hard and to provoke him to speak about many things, <sup>54</sup> lying in wait for him, to catch him in something he might say. <sup>12:1</sup> In the meantime, when so many thousands of the people had gathered together that they were trampling one another, he began to say to his disciples first, “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. <sup>2</sup> Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. <sup>3</sup> Therefore whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed on the housetops.

### **WHAT DOES IT SAY?**

1. What were the hidden problems for the Pharisees & lawyers?
2. How were outward appearances & inner motives at odds?
3. How did the religious leaders respond to Jesus’ confrontation?

### **WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**

4. What does “give as alms those things that are within” mean?
5. What was meant by, “you hindered those who were entering”?
6. What does “nothing is hidden that will not be known” mean?

### **WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?**

7. Why do you think Jesus chose a publicly confrontation?
8. What do you focus on more, the outside or the inside?
9. How do you respond when someone confronts your hypocrisy? Does it make a difference who confronts you?
10. What is Jesus exposing as empty, hollow, hypocritical, in your life right now? How will you respond?

As you spend time praying remember that prayer is meant to be the most natural, easy, and empowering, part of your day. Prayer is talking to God and hearing Him talk to you. In your prayers thank God for caring enough about you that He exposes your hypocrisy. Ask God to help you respond with humility and a heart of repentance. Ask God to help you admit your hypocrisy and grow in your love for Him and your love for others. God will help you because He loves you.