

1. Intro

- Today's passage has Jesus speaking to **Pharisees** and **experts in religious law**.
- Jesus is going to take a "no holds barred" approach to both of these proud groups of religious leaders. They were believing and teaching lies that kept themselves and others from entering the Kingdom of God.

2. Text: Luke 11:37-54

Luke 11:37-38

- Jesus didn't wash his hands as **required** by Jewish **custom**.
 - Jewish priests washing their hands merely **symbolized** the need to be clean and pure before they could approach a holy and righteous God.
 - **Hebrews 10:1, 10** "The old system under the law of Moses was only a shadow, a dim preview of the good things to come, not the good things themselves. The sacrifices under that system were repeated again and again, year after year, but they were never able to provide perfect cleansing for those who came to worship.
 - **10** For God's will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time."
- Mathematical equation to help us understand the Gospel of salvation:
 - Jesus + **nothing** = everything!
 - **Romans 5:1** - "Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us."

Luke 11:39-44

- Jesus challenged the Pharisees with 3 sins. Paraphrased:
 - You wash your hands clean, but what I want is a **changed heart** that results in you being more concerned about the poor than about yourself! (Vs 42)
 - You're proud of yourself for carefully tithing the right amount, but what I want is for you to **care** for people, treat them fairly, and **love** them deeply! (Vs 43)
 - You love to be honored and respected because of your religious **title**, but I want you to realize that you are as **unclean** and foul as a dead corpse. (Vs 44)

- Anyone **depending** on following certain religious rules, performing religious rituals or customs, and having good outward deeds as a means for cleansing of sin and salvation will suffer great **sorrow** after death.

Luke 11:45-54

- Jesus challenged the experts in religious law with 3 sins. Paraphrased:
 - You will have sorrow for eternity because you purposely make life miserable for people by giving them religious rules they can't possibly keep; and you sit back and actually enjoy watching them struggle, while you - falsely - claim to perfectly follow them! You are sadistic hypocrites! (Vs 46)
 - You will have sorrow for eternity because you claim to honor and revere God's prophets, but you actually kill and persecute them, just like your ancestors did! (Vs 47-51)
 - You will have sorrow for eternity because you have full access to the Scriptures and the key to the Kingdom of God, yet you locked yourselves and others out of God's kingdom by twisting the meaning of the Scriptures to fit your personal agenda. (Vs 52)
- The experts in religious law had great **knowledge** of the Scriptures, but they misinterpreted it, mis-applied it, and added their own rules to it for selfish purposes. They taught a false Gospel.
 - **Galatians 1:6-10**

3. Application

- If you have any faith in the grandeur and beauty of religious ceremony or tradition for your salvation, reject it and put your faith completely in the grandeur and infinite beauty of Jesus Christ!
 - **2 Corinthians 5:21** NIV "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."
- In our "standing" with God, we are righteous because of what Jesus did for us. But how is our day to day battle with the sin nature (sanctification) going?
 - Do we look good on the outside like those Pharisees, but we're filthy with sin on the inside?
 - Do we see everyone else's sin and call it out, but all the while are nursing our own secret sins?
 - Let's do battle with sin and claim the truth that we are dead to the power of sin!
 - **Romans 6:5-11**