What Hurts the Heart of Jesus – Hypocrisy Scripture: Matthew 23:25-33

"The single greatest cause of atheism in the world today is Christians who acknowledge Jesus with their lips, then walk out the door, and deny Him with their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable." Brennan Manning

HYPOCRISY IS NOT THE DISPARITY BETWEEN WHAT WE DO AND WHAT WE WISH WE DID.

HYPOCRISY IS THE GAP BETWEEN WHAT WE <u>SHOW</u> AND <u>WHO</u> WE ARE.

They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him ... Titus 1:16

Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, <u>you hypocrites</u>! You are like whitewashed tombs, which <u>look beautiful on the outside</u> <u>but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead</u> and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you <u>appear to people as righteous</u> but on <u>the</u> <u>inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness</u>. ... You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell? Matthew 23:27-28, 33

HOPE FOR THE HYPOCRITE

Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, <u>you hypocrites</u>! You <u>clean the outside of the cup</u> <u>and dish</u>, but <u>inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence</u>. Blind Pharisee! <u>First clean the inside</u> of the cup and dish, and <u>then the outside also will be clean</u>. Matthew 23:25-26

Whoever <u>conceals their sins does not prosper</u>, but the <u>one who confesses and renounces them</u> <u>finds mercy</u>. Proverbs 28:13

Search me, God, and <u>know my heart</u>; test me and <u>know my anxious thoughts</u>. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the <u>way everlasting</u>. Psalm 139:23-24

WE DON'T CLOSE THE GAPS WITH PERFECTION.

WE CLOSE THE GAPS WITH <u>CHRIST</u>.