

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. ***Enjoy discovering more about Him!***

"ESSE QUAM VIDERI" | LUKE 11:33-54 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What movie or book or song comes to mind when you think of legalistic?

"Eyes Wide Open" (Luke 11: 33-36)

Jesus uses an analogy of a lamp and light and our eyes to teach people the importance of looking to Him, the light of the world, so they are filled with Him. **What are signs that someone is full of Jesus?**

"The Pharisees Three Woes" (Luke 11: 37-44)

Jesus confronts Pharisees over their focus on small, outward signs of religion instead of truly loving God and others. **What are ways people today make the same mistake?**

"The Lawyers Three Woes" (Luke 11: 45-54)

Jesus confronts experts in the law for how they created burdens and barriers for people seeking God and His Truth through legalism? **Why is Jesus against legalism? What are ways to protect ourselves from becoming legalistic?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Jesus asks the rhetorical question "Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also?" God cares about what is in our hearts more than our words or actions. **How would you live differently if you truly believed that? What would you stop doing? Start doing? Ask God to reveal specific ways for you to let Him have more of your heart and to make it new.**

*Esse quam videri*I. Slide1 **Announce:**

A. Slide2-8 **AL:** Op Unity. REAL. GrillnChill. Starting Pt. Foundations. C@R. FHC.

II. Slide9 **Intro:** *Esse quam videri*

A. A Latin phrase meaning *To be, rather than to seem.*

1. Found in Cicero's essay, *On Friendship*. [N.Carolina's State motto]

2. If you're on social media then you fully understand, *marketing an image that has nothing to do with reality. It's what you say, vs what you do.*

It's what you show vs who you are. [here Jesus deals with that very problem]

B. Luke moves to writing about: *Jesus' words* more than *His works*. And deals with the *antagonism* against Jesus.

C. I invite you this morning to join me in *looking in the mirror* ourselves. If you don't you'll *actually think* this is only for the *Pharisees* and the *experts in religious law*.

D. **Pray:** Jesus, strip away that *thin veneer* we've concocted, so people will focus on our appearance, then who we really are. Teach us to be **transparent** 1st w/You, then w/those around us.

III. Slide10 **EYES WIDE OPEN (33-36)** **READ** *lighting a lamp - light & darkness*

A. The function of a lit lamp is *so others might see the light*. God wants us to live *wide-eyed, eyes wide open*, and not live *squinty-eyed* in greed & distrust.

B. Slide11 Jn.8:12 *Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

1. When you *reject light* the only thing left is **darkness**.

2. So here, it's **not** about **us** being the light of the world, **but** the reminder to **receive Jesus**, *the Light of the world*, as the most necessary light.

3. **And** when you do you will **see the Light**, then you will be **full of light**, then **wholly bright** (purity), to **the One** who **gives us light**.

- C. A man with **no eyesight** & plenty of light around him can't see. **And** neither can a man with **perfect eyesight** with no light.
- D. The eye then is the instrument of light.
1. **Why do our eyes dilate?** (let more light in)
 2. **Good eyes** (clear/healthy) - focuses properly & truly.
 3. **Bad eyes** (evil/unhealthy) – might have a visual defect, blurred vision, or shortsightedness.
 - a) An **evil eye** *distorts* the light that is trying to enter.
 - b) A **clear eye** becomes a lamp, permitting the light to shine *within us*.

IV. Slide12 **THE PHARISEES THREE WOES (37-44) READ**

- A. Slide13a Jesus' purpose for **woes** were to **expose sins**, and try to help them *see the light*. [Woe - infers *grief, deep regret, sorrow/pity, or anguish* ... **NOT anger**]
- B. Slide13b The Pharisees had a **PhD in the irrelevant**, **but** were **unlearned in the essentials**. [They lost the plot]
- C. #1 **Problem?** Attention to **externalism** to the neglect of the **internal** condition of their life. Inside was *full of greed and wickedness*. [clean surface, dirty underneath]
1. (41) **Turn both your pockets and heart inside out & give generously to the poor.** msg
- D. **The Pharisees**, aka, *the faithful ones*, built fences, w/in fences, to keep themselves **pure**. It sounds good, *let's build a fence back here to protect us from impurity*.
1. It sounds good **and** we do that all the time. It is good to be cautious.
 - a) Someone committed to **holiness** might put their computer in a more public space. **But** some good intentions can go astray.
 2. **Have you ever judged someone for not living by your extra-biblical rules? Have you ever looked at them as *less faithful or less committed* than you? **We all do!****
 3. **And then, Jesus doesn't wash his hands.** They weren't thinking of germs. But what they were concerned with was **purity**. **All day long they**

interacted with the sinful world, a contaminated world. They washed their hands so they didn't take something in. (the world **out-there** is contaminated)

a) Mt.15 *It's not what you put in but what comes out of the heart is what defiles u*

4. **But** to the Pharisees the "**outside**" was *the enemy*. The world is what is dirty, it's an out-there problem.

E. **Zombie movies:** whether *reanimated corpses* or *virally infected human beings* the plot is always the same. **Zombies** are **out-there** trying to eat or kill the **non-Zombie people**, who are trying their best to get away from the **Zombies**.

1. They run for safety and finally find what they think is a "safe" building. They barricade themselves. The idea being, "*Zombies are locked out and kept **out-there** and we can be safe in here.*"

2. **Problem & shock to everyone?** They're not as *safe* as they think they are.

a) There's either a **Zombie** *locked in there with them*, or *someone has been bitten recently*, and soon ... they will be a **Zombie**. *See they couldn't keep the threat **outside**, they couldn't keep from *contamination*.*

b) **Slide13c** They're convinced that the threat **out-there** can be contained.

3. **Ok, back to the bible**, Jesus says, *no, the problem is right in here* (heart).

a) Mt.23:26 *You blind Pharisee! First clean the **inside** of the cup and the plate, that the **outside** also may be clean.*

F. **The Great Wall of China:** I don't know if this has been verified, that *the Great Wall of China* was too tall, too thick, and definitely too long to breach. **But** it is said, at different times in history *a guard was bribed* to leave the gate open.

G. **Slide14a WOE #1 INVERSION OF VALUES** (42)

H. (42) **Jesus** didn't tell them *not to* tithe on herbs, **but** just not at the expense of the more important things. (penny on a sidewalk, run home hacksaw off 10%, bring to church)

1. Don't be so concerned about **1/10th of your spice cabinet**, **but instead** *remember* God wants all of your heart.

2. Justice *and* the love of God - or just *do the right thing, and love God* w/all your heart, soul, mind, strength. *i.e.* weighty matters.
- I. Believers, don't confuse what is *surface Christianity* w/what is *plunging the depths*.
1. Surface = doing the basics. *I come to church. I read the bible.*
 2. Depths = the love of God! See, to find out if one is a *genuine Christian*, it should be whether they *love God, & not* what they're doing for Him.
- J. Slide14b WOE #2 EVIL MOTIVES (43)
- K. If you love sitting at the head of the table *and* love public flattery - then maybe you are *self-centered* and *self-promoting*.
- L. When **Ptolemy**, *Alexander the Great's general, & a historian of the 2nd century*, decided to build the **Pharos** (mammoth lighthouse), he chose **Sostratus** to design it, which later became *one of the 7 Wonders of the World*.
1. **Ptolemy** insisted that the structure should bear his inscription as a personal memorial; *however*, **Sostratus** didn't think the king should get all the credit. He therefore put the title of Ptolemy on the front of the lighthouse in a thick plaster which would be eye catching at first, *but later* would be worn away by the elements. *Secretly* he had cut his own name in the granite underneath. For decades the sea dashed against the inscription and gradually eroded it. Though it lasted the lifetime of that earthly monarch, it finally was obliterated, leaving the name "**Sostratus**" standing in bold relief!
 2. *And so* worldly fame often *disappears* before the relentless waves of time.
- M. Slide14c WOE #3 CORRUPTING INFLUENCE (44)
- N. They were *unconsciously exerting a corrupt influence* to **all** who were following their lead.
1. Contact w/a grave caused defilement. Contact w/these Pharisees did also

- V. Slide15 **THE LAWYERS THREE WOES (45-54)** *READ* experts in religious law
- A. (45) **The lawyers** speak up and say, *hey you're making us feel bad also*. Jesus said, *well if the sandal fits! OK then, you're next*.
- B. Jesus was speaking to their *boatload of man-made additional Commandments* they came up with, **The oral law** that they accumulated overtime (codified in 200 AD)
1. These were **extra laws** describing what Moses *really meant*.
- C. While in Babylon they came up with **the synagogue** since the temple was destroyed **and** they couldn't fulfill *the ceremonial law*, so they focused on *the written law*.
1. So in their studies it was always the question of *what did Moses mean by that*. (i.e.) The Bible only gives a few paragraphs about **the Sabbath** like, *not to carry a burden*. **But** in the Jewish *Mishna* they came up w/24 chapters explaining the Sabbath. **Or 156 Folio pages** (large 12x19") front & back, of *work you can't do on the Sabbath*.
 2. They were specific, a burden is "*Food equal in weight to a dried fig, enough wine for mixing in a goblet, milk enough for one swallow, honey enough to put upon a wound, oil enough to anoint a small member, water enough to moisten an eye-salve ... ink enough to write two letters of the alphabet, reed enough to make a pen.*"
- D. Slide16a **WOE #1 DENUNCIATION OF INSINCERITY (45,46)**
- E. **They crushed men** with their heavy load of legalism
- F. **They trampled them** with their godless traditions.
1. And they weren't even living by *their own code*.
- G. Slide16b **WOE #2 HYPOCRISY (47-51)**
- H. This was satire (irony, sarcasm)
1. *Their fathers killed the prophets, & they put monuments up to killed prophets, & went on w/the same business of killing prophets.*¹
- I. **Abel & Zachariah** - Chronicles was last book in Hebrew OT. (2 Chron.24:20,21)

¹ G. Campbell Morgan, pg.150.

1. The whole range of OT history is thus indicated.

J. Slide16c WOE #3 KEPT THE DOORS LOCKED (52-54)

K. They key was the insignia of *their office*. (interpreters of the *Moral Law*).

1. You've hid the key your *office* loaned you & now won't even let others in.

L. *Esse quam videri* (to **be**, rather than to **seem**).

M. Prayer: Lord, help us to **BE** a *Jesus Follower*, to actually *DO Things*, rather than someone who just claims the title of Christian.

N. Keywords: Light, Law.