



OKOTOKS EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

ENCOUNTERS WITH GOD

THE RELIGIOUS HYPOCRITES (LUKE 6:39-42)

APRIL 23-29, 2017

SERMON OUTLINE

The Religious Hypocrites Acts 6:8–7:60

A personal encounter with God Exposes the Dark Underbelly of zeal for God . . . Human zeal must Prevail

This leads them to an Act of Hypocrisy

1. Establish a lie
2. Spread the lie
3. Formalize the accusation
4. Let his Defense Destroy him

How do we keep our zeal from leading to an Act of Hypocrisy?

We must be Full of the Holy Spirit

What do I need to do with what I have heard today?

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MAIN POINT

Jesus shines a light on our hypocrisy.

THINKING THINGS THROUGH

Connect the sermon to the study.

1. Hypocrisy is defined as “the practice of claiming to have moral standards or beliefs to which one’s own behavior does not conform.” What are some reasons a Christian might be labeled a hypocrite?

2. How closely would you say that you live by the principles and practices you preach?

Leader: Rightly or wrongly, Christians often have a reputation for being hypocrites. People see what we claim to believe and think that our walk does not match our talk. While calling someone a hypocrite is often a loaded claim, there is often a speck of truth in these claims. When we are following our teacher and taking direction from Him, we have a fresh and vibrant faith. We should take heed of Jesus’ warning in Luke 6, as He gives directions on how to avoid being a religious hypocrite.

DIGGING DEEPER

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

> [HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LUKE 6:39-40.](#)

3. In these verses, Jesus pointed to Himself as the true source of spiritual guidance. To what or whom do people mistakenly look for spiritual guidance?

4. What does it mean to be “fully trained” (v. 40)? How do you understand what Jesus meant by that statement?

Leader: The answer to Jesus’ question in verse 39 is apparent. A blind person cannot lead another blind person. The results would be disastrous. Jesus is calling on His disciples to realize that they need to find truth and guidance from outside of themselves, not within themselves. We are poor evaluators of our own spiritual health, and because of sin we are not equipped to lead ourselves. We need guidance from Jesus Christ,

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which is given to us by the Holy Spirit through the Scriptures. We avoid hypocrisy when we test ourselves against the testimony of Christ in the Scriptures.

5. What are some ways we can become “fully trained” to be like our teacher? What has Jesus taught you lately about this?

6. Why is becoming more and more like Jesus the most successful path away from hypocrisy?

Leader: Jesus perfectly practiced what He preached. So when we become like Him, we are less and less likely to be hypocrites ourselves. As our encounter with Jesus continues to grow and change us, He will open our eyes to our own hypocrisy.

> HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LUKE 6:41-42.

7. When are you most tempted to point out a fellow believer’s shortcomings? What motivates you to do so? Why is it so much easier to recognize the faults of someone else before your own?

8. What is the point of the speck and the plank (vv. 41-42)? Would you say you are good at following these directions? How have you gotten better as you have learned to follow the master?

9. When we take on the role of judge, what are we saying about our relationships with God and others? How do we deal with our own issues while at the same time dealing with the poor guy with the speck in his eye?

Leader: Jesus delved into His disciples’ inner character. The speck denoted a small object. The log, however, represented a huge piece of wood that obviously would cause blindness. The word-picture pointed out the ridiculous nature of a hypocritical person. The basis of any discussion about judgment must start here: We’re all sinners who deserve God’s judgment but are offered His grace (Rom. 3:19-24). God holds all of us to the same standard, and we all fall short of it. Before we attempt to point out another’s sins, we must be aware of our own and remember that only God has the wisdom and authority to judge.

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DOING LIFE TOGETHER

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

10. When you think of the plank in your own eye analogy, what comes to mind that you need to surrender and hand over to God this week?

11. We all need people in our lives who can lovingly help us with our sin. Do you have these people in your life? How are these relationships developed? How can this group help you with that?

PRAYER

Praise God for changing your life and making it possible to know Him. Ask that as you learn to follow Him, you would faithfully and regularly examine your life for areas where you are not in line with Him. Pray that you would hunger and thirst to be more like Him every day.

MEMORIZE

Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? (Luke 6:41)

SPOTLIGHT ON THE PASSAGE

LUKE 6:39-42

6:39-40. You need a story to help you understand? Look at it this way. If you cannot see where you are going, do you want a blind person leading you?

Of course not! You would both fall into the trap by the road, and neither of you could get the other out. You need someone who is better equipped than you are to guide you. This is certainly true in discipleship. The new disciple must know that the teacher knows more and is to be honored and respected. The new disciple must not, however, remain a new disciple. The goal is for the disciple to become like his teacher. Ultimately the goal is for every disciple to become like the Master Teacher, Jesus himself. No disciple should have any lower goal than to be like Jesus.

6:41-42. The disciple never becomes the judge. As humans, our tendency is to be too easy on ourselves and too harsh on others. We see a tiny speck of dust in the other person's eye, and want to remove it. The other person must be perfect. All the while, other people wonder why we are so blind. Can we not see what is sticking out of our eye? No, that two-by-four in our eye goes unnoticed, no matter how many times we look in the mirror. We moan and complain about the hypocrisy in this world, even the hypocrisy in the church. Jesus looks lovingly at us and says, you hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye. Until Jesus has helped us to see ourselves realistically and to deal with our spiritual problems, we cannot become mature disciples—the teachers of others whom he calls us to be.

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