

I. Intro

- A. Last week, we ended with a teaching on eyes and light
 - 1. Eye is a lamp to the inner man
 - 2. What you behold impacts the inner person
- B. Theme of the “inner person” continues today
 - 1. Jesus was invited to dinner at a Pharisee’s house
 - a) Pharisee – Jewish party that exercised strict devotion to Mosaic Law
 - b) Famous for “interpreting” the law in strict ways (sabbath)
 - 2. At dinner, the issue of washing, cleansing, and the inner man is addressed

II. Text

A. Luke 11:37-42

- 1. Jesus is invited to dinner with a Pharisee
 - a) Pharisee issue – Jesus doesn’t wash (ceremonial, not hygiene)
 - b) Jesus issue – you wash the outside, but not the inside
- 2. Jesus isn’t talking about cups – cups become a parable
 - a) A cup has a maker. A cup has an outside and inside.
 - b) Pharisees have a maker. Pharisees have an outside life and inside life.
 - c) Why does the Pharisee care more about outward life than inward life?
 - (1) *A man must be concerned with outward AND inward holiness*
 - (2) *In fact, if your inner life is holy you overflow with outward holiness*
 - d) Woe to those who:
 - (1) Are obedient in the smallest outward measures
 - (2) But, neglect things like justice and the love of God
- 3. *Jesus’ point – inner holiness of loving God manifests in outward giving*

B. Luke 11:43-12:3

- 1. Jesus elaborates on the inner and outer life
 - a) Pharisees were overly concerned with outer life
 - b) Why? Because that is what everyone could see
 - c) Lawyers were concerned with the same thing

2. *Core issue: leaders were leading people away from God*
 - a) *Taught the people to focus on outward holiness*
 - b) *Taught the people to carry heavy outward burdens*
 - c) *Taught the people false accounts of history (prophets)*
 - d) *Taught the people hypocrisy, not God's Word*
3. *Here is the danger of hypocrisy*
 - a) *It puffs up and lies about holiness*
 - b) *It is always exposed*
 - (1) *The last part was a warning to all who follow Christ*
 - (2) *Mirrors Isaiah's warning to not make alliances with foreign nations*
 - (3) *They are all under judgment – follow Pharisees, get Pharisee results*
 - (4) *Instead, follow Jesus and get Jesus results*

C. Luke 12:4-12

1. What does it look like to follow Jesus and get Jesus results?
 - a) *Looks like trading your fear of man for fear of God*
 - (1) *No more caring about approval and acceptance*
 - (2) *No more living your life so others will think well of you*
 - (3) *Live your life so God thinks well of you*
 - b) *Looks like resting in the knowledge that God loves you*
 - (1) *No more striving to get His attention or affection*
 - (2) *You are valuable in His eyes, you have great worth as His child*
 - c) *Looks like bold confessions of faith amidst persecution*
 - (1) *No more hiding your faith in public life*
 - (2) *No more worrying about what you will say when you share your faith*
 - d) *The result is a life that is polar opposite of the Pharisee (religious)*
 - (1) *The religious person performs out of deceit*
 - (2) *The Christian responds out of devotion*

D. Luke 12:13-21

1. One more parable that takes aim at the outward vs inward life

- a) Jesus is asked to settle an inheritance controversy
- b) Instead, Jesus teaches a parable that warns against greed
- 2. The issue here is not possessions
 - a) In Acts, Christian communities include homeowners and wealthy merchants
 - b) Many of these believers give generously to support others in need
 - (1) The issue is how outer things impact the inner life
 - (2) The issue is when possessions take hold of your heart
 - (3) The issue is when the line is crossed from steward to owner
- 3. Where is that line?
 - a) Somewhere in all the "my crops, my barns, my grain, myself"
 - b) Somewhere around "relax, eat, drink, be merry"
 - c) Somewhere around the moment you trade obedience for luxury
 - d) You can't store up treasures for yourself and be rich toward God

III. Conclusion

- A. At this point we must ask ourselves – what is the Spirit speaking
 - 1. Why has Luke arranged the events this way
 - 2. Why is Jesus contrasting the Pharisee way and the Jesus way?
- B. Because there is always two ways!
 - 1. There is the religious, outward, self-righteous, and deceptive way
 - 2. There is the devoted, inward, humble, Christ-exalting way
 - 3. And, at this point in Jesus' ministry the disciples must see it clearly
- C. *Because, in the first century and today – the stakes only get higher*
 - 1. *Jesus was traveling to Jerusalem, and the persecution would only increase*
 - 2. *As we follow Christ – persecution, temptation, and deception increase*
 - a) *We must count the cost, be ready, keep our lamps bright*
 - b) *Shed the desire for possessions and the need to perform*
 - c) *Cease leading people from hypocrisy and the desire for their approval*
- D. Chapter is a gut check – be wholly devoted to Jesus, and let everything flow from that