



Week 14

Series: Equipped

Sermon Title: Only Christ Can Make Us Clean

Sermon Text: Luke 11:37-54

Group Week of: July 28, 2024

Sermon Date: August 4, 2024

Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies	
Day 1	The Woe's Pt 1 – Matthew 23:13-24
Day 2	The Woe's Pt 2 – Matthew 23:25-39
Day 3	The Heart – Luke 6:43-45
Day 4	Walk with God – Micah 6:1-8
Day 5	A Clean Heart – Psalm 51:1-19

The Text: Luke 11:37-42

³⁷ When Jesus had finished speaking, a Pharisee invited him to eat with him; so he went in and reclined at the table. ³⁸ But the Pharisee was surprised when he noticed that Jesus did not first wash before the meal.

³⁹ Then the Lord said to him, “Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. ⁴⁰ You foolish people! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also? ⁴¹ But now as for what is inside you—be generous to the poor, and everything will be clean for you.

⁴² “Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.

Textual Questions

- 1) What is (are) the main lesson(s) you see Jesus giving to His disciples (and us) through this text?
- 2) How does the Pharisee clean the “outside of the cup and dish” in this account?

Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) The term “legalism” gets thrown around in Christianity quite often. Pastors, churches, and individual Christians can be accused of being legalistic or pharisaical. What does that actually mean? Think of examples and discuss them with your life group.

- 2) Sometimes, in our efforts to combat legalism, we create a whole new set of laws and end up in the very sin we tried to escape. Reflect on this and try to provide an example for your group to discuss.

- 3) The Pharisee invited Jesus to his home even though Jesus had just publicly rebuked the crowds and the Pharisees among them. Why do you think the Pharisee did this? Why do you think Jesus was willing to go to his home? What does this tell you about our willingness to dialogue with our theological or philosophical enemies?

- 4) For the Pharisees, “hand washing” was not a hygienic practice but a matter of eating with hands that were ritually clean so as not to even unwittingly defile oneself. From the Pharisee’s perspective, Jesus is flippant about being ceremonially clean or unclean. What things do you see others do that you think are flippant regarding their own cleanness (righteousness) or uncleanness (unrighteousness)?

- 5) Jesus responds to the Pharisee’s thoughts by teaching about the inside and outside of a cup. Explain the cup illustration in your own words below. Discuss with your group and come to a clear understanding of how the cup illustration teaches us about inward and outward righteousness.

- 6) How is it that if the inside of the cup (the heart) is clean, then everything (all of life) will be clean as well?

- 7) What activity does Jesus tell the Pharisees to do that will ensure the inside of the cup is clean? Make sure to look past the simple outward activity and into the inward attitude of the heart.

- 8) Sometimes it is easier to feel righteous because of all the obvious things we don’t do (lust, murder, lie, get drunk, etc.) than it is to actively practice love and justice. What do you need to do this week to cultivate and walk in the active practice of love and justice?