

I want to believe, but...
Why are Jesus' followers and leaders such hypocrites?
Sermon Notes May 19th, 2019

Matthew 6:1-7, 16

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

² “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the **hypocrites** do in the **synagogues** and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁵ “And when you pray, do not be like the **hypocrites**, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁷ And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.

¹⁶ “When you fast, do not look somber as the **hypocrites** do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

What matters is doing things simply for God. We all are learning to love and serve God for who He is.

Matthew 23:23

²³ “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.

Luke 18:10-14

¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

¹³ “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

¹⁴ “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Matthew 12:34

³⁴ You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

Who are the Pharisees?

Pharisees were the leaders of rabbinical Judaism that began after the return from Babylon and were known for their devotion to the word of God and unfortunately for their lack of compassion.

Jesus doesn't define maturity by how much you know, but instead how much you love.

Many Pharisees Liked Jesus

Luke 7:36

Luke 11:37

Luke 13:31

Luke 14:1

A Hypocrite/Pharisee or Follower of Jesus?

Actions like Jesus:

- I listen to others to learn their story before telling them about my faith.
- In recent years, I have influenced multiple people to consider following Christ.
- I regularly choose to have meals with people with very different faith or morals from me.
- I try to discover the needs of non-Christians rather than waiting for them to come to me.
- I am personally spending time with non-believers to help them follow Jesus.

Attitudes like Jesus:

- I see God-given value in every person, regardless of their past or present condition.
- I believe God is for everyone.

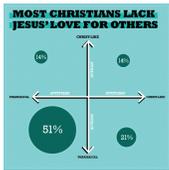
- I see God working in people's lives, even when they are not following him.
- It is more important to help people know God is for them than to make sure they know they are sinners.
- I feel compassion for people who are not following God and doing immoral things.

Self-Righteous Actions:

- I tell others the most important thing in my life is following God's rules.
- I don't talk about my sins or struggles. That's between me and God.
- I try to avoid spending time with people who are openly gay or lesbian.
- I like to point out those who do not have the right theology or doctrine.
- I prefer to serve people who attend my church rather than those outside the church.

Self-Righteous Attitudes:

- I find it hard to be friends with people who seem to constantly do the wrong things.
- It's not my responsibility to help people who won't help themselves.
- I feel grateful to be a Christian when I see other people's failures and flaws.
- I believe we should stand against those who are opposed to Christian values.
- People who follow God's rules are better than those who do not.



When you choose to have the attitude and actions of Jesus you are actually choosing to imitate God and how He interacts with us.

Heart & Actions of Children of God = Displaying the Image of God = Imitating God = Actions & Attitudes of Jesus

Truth

“Please, O Lord, refrain from calling into being a creature who is beset with the vice of lying, who will tread truth under his feet!”

Peace

“Why, Lord, shall this creature appear on earth, a creature so full of strife and contention, to disturb the peace and harmony of your creation? He will carry the flame of quarrel and ill-will everywhere he goes. He will bring about war and destruction in his eagerness for gain and conquest!”

Mercy:

“King of the universe, if you create a being *in your likeness*, it will be a noble creature striving to imitate your attributes by its actions. Even now I see this being performing his great mission, doing his noble work. I envision him approaching the humble hut, seeking the wretched to comfort them, drying the tears of the afflicted and discouraged, cheering the heavy of heart, offering a helping hand to those in need, giving solace to the widow, and providing shelter to the orphan. Such a creature cannot fail to be a glory to his Maker!”