

Bible/College Class Notes – Hypocrisy – Lesson 15

Opposition To Jesus – Hypocrisy

This week we learn how hypocrisy in our hearts can be replaced by truth and sincerity.

‘Behold, Thou desirest truth in the inward parts (our soul)’. Psalm 51 v6

Bible Readings for this week

(Choose a regular time each day to read the bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Mark 7v1-13 (Shun hypocrisy, seek forgiveness)	
Monday	Mark 7v14-23 (God sees all the sin of our heart)	
Tuesday	Matthew 6v1-15 (The pattern for prayer)	
Wednesday	Matthew 6v16-34 (Lay up treasures in Heaven)	
Thursday	Matthew 23v1-22 (Avoid hypocrisy - be faithful)	
Friday	Matthew 23v23-39 (The compassion of Christ)	
Saturday	Psalm 51 (David seeks and finds forgiveness)	

Important Lesson for us today: Hypocrisy is pretending to be better than we really are. It’s an outward show of goodness **BUT** we are all wrong inside our heart and soul. Don’t let the Lord’s challenging description of these religious leaders describe us.

“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men’s bones, and of all uncleanness”. Matthew 23v13

Instead, let us ask the Lord to show us any hypocritical pride lurking in our hearts, and repent of it, asking Him to make us sincere, humble, and honest; seeking to be clothed in His righteousness alone. **Forgiven sin entitles us to enter God’s eternal Heaven.**

Hymn 194 - The everlasting love of Jesus Christ in saving sinners like us.

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| 1. One there is, above all others, | 5. O, for grace our hearts to soften! |
| Well deserves the name of Friend: | Teach us, Lord, at length to love: |
| His is love beyond a brother’s: | We, alas! forget too often |
| Costly, free, and knows no end; | What a Friend we have above: |
| They who once His kindness prove, | But, when home our souls are brought, |
| Find it everlasting love. | We shall love Thee as we ought. |

EDT Bible/College Class Take Home Sheet

This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible.

Jesus Exposes the Hypocrisy of the Scribes and Pharisees.

What Mattered Most to Them was Opposite to What Matters to God.

They Cared More For: -

- **Their Outward Appearance more than for Their Inward Soul.**
 - Showing their outward religion by repeated handwashing for cleanliness, by their dress, and stopping to pray in public, to be seen on street corners, and to sit in the important seats in church. **All outward show to impress.**
 - Yet ignoring and hiding their unrepentant hearts which were full of sinful pride, deceit, unbelief, selfishness, lust, hatred, lies, and hypocrisy.
- **The Little Things more than The Vital, Important Things.**
 - Strict adherence to their own invented rules, even tithing mint.
 - Yet no interest in the teaching of true faith in God, or showing mercy and help to the needy, or warning people of God’s Holy Judgement to come.
- **Their Own Religion more than God Centred Worship.**
 - They relied on outward show and religious formality to worship God.
 - Like many today that rely on vast cathedrals, crosses, images, robes, pomp, and man-made religious ceremony for their worship. Using the physical senses and music to worship God.
 - Yet no place for humble, reverent, heart-felt, thoughtful worship based on the understanding, as required by God. The Lord taught *“...they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.”* John 4v24
- **Their Own Popularity more than The Saving of a Soul.**
 - Looking for the admiration, applause, and following of the crowds.
 - Yet no Gospel message of repentance & faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour. The Lord said to them, *‘Ye shut up the Kingdom of Heaven against men’.*
- **The Lord asks us to Examine our Heart. Do we seek: -**
 - To gain the admiration of others? – latest fashion, gadgets, possessions.
 - To please God by outward show even in our church attendance and acts?
 - **OR,** Do we see ourselves as sinners before a Holy God, recognising our need to seek and find His forgiveness through repentance and faith?

Let us search our hearts for hypocrisy and seek the Lord’s forgiveness.

Let us prayerfully prepare our hearts as we come to worship Almighty God.

Let David’s sincere prayer of repentance (after he had sinned by committing adultery with Bathsheba and arranging for her husband to be killed in battle) be ours, *“Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy loving kindness: according unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.*

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin”.

Psalm 51v1-2