



27 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. 28 In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness... 33 "You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell? Matthew 23:27-28;33 (NIV)

1 ..."Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees—their hypocrisy. Luke 12:1 (NLT)

#### **The warning reminds us:**

- What starts out good can go bad.
- What starts out small can become big.

#### **What Hypocrisy is not:**

- Hypocrisy is not the difference between what we do and what we wish we did.

15 What I don't understand about myself is that I decide one way, but then I act another, doing things I absolutely despise. Romans 7:15 (MSG)

- Hypocrisy is the difference between who I claim to be publicly and how I live privately.
- Hypocrisy is a heart issue; it's okay to mislead others when it benefits us personally.

**Hypocrisy:** the practice of claiming to have moral standards or beliefs to which our behavior does not conform.

16 Such people claim they know God, but they deny him by the way they live.... Titus 1:16 (NLT)

7 You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: 8 " "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Matthew 15:7-8 (NIV)

18 In the morning, as Jesus was returning to Jerusalem, he was hungry, 19 and he noticed a fig tree beside the road. He went over to see if there were any figs, but there were only leaves. Then he said to it, "May you never bear fruit again!" And immediately the fig tree withered up. Matthew 21:18-19 (NLT)

#### **Why hypocrisy is bad:**

- It hurts others.

- It makes us prideful.
- It allows us to live a lie.

2 We refuse to wear masks and play games. We don't maneuver and manipulate behind the scenes... Rather, we keep everything we do and say out in the open... 2 Corinthians 4:2 (MSG)

- It prevents us from experiencing God.

21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God. John 3:21 (NIV)

- It looks nothing like Jesus.

20 So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" 2 Corinthians 5:20 (NLT)

#### **Hope for the Hypocrite:**

25 "Woe to you, Pharisees, and you religious leaders—hypocrites! You are so careful to polish the outside of the cup, but the inside is foul with extortion and greed. 26 Blind Pharisees! First cleanse the inside of the cup, and then the whole cup will be clean. Matthew 23:25-26 (TLB)

I'd rather be an honest sinner than a lying hypocrite.

13 People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy. Proverbs 28:13 (NLT)

- We have nothing to fear when we have nothing to hide.

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. 24 Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life. Psalm 139:23-24 (NLT)

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- We don't close the gaps with perfection.

- We close the gaps with Christ.

#### **Have Questions? Text them to: (559)-464-5754**

##### Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

*These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

- What spoke most to you from the talk on Sunday?
- Describe how you feel or what you think about when you hear the word "hypocrisy."
- Describe what "masks" you wore growing up. How did you show yourself as someone you weren't?
- Is there a mask you currently wear?
- Have you heard anyone say - "The church is full of hypocrites"? How did you respond? Have you ever said - "There is always room for one more"? Why is that not a great response?
- In your own words, why would Jesus be so upset with the Pharisees?
- Have you ever been hurt by hypocrites in the church? Explain if you can.
- Can you think of other reasons why hypocrisy is damaging to ourselves and others?
- Read Proverbs 28:13; How does this speak to resolving hypocrisy?
- Read Psalm 139:23-24; David's words communicate a heart of openness and transparency to God. David uses 5 words that give God permission to go to work: Search, Know, Test, Point out, and Lead. Is this a prayer that would be difficult for you to pray? Explain.
- What can we do to make sure hypocrisy is not a part of our lives?

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