

LIKE
JESUS

Q



People's opinion of **Jesus** can reflect their encounters with **followers** of Jesus.

- We would rather **distance** ourselves from what exposes our true selves; than allow it to expose our need for **change**.

As followers of Jesus we are **learners** of Jesus.

Take my yoke upon you and **learn from me**, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Matthew 11:29 (NIV)

To become like Jesus is to allow his **values** to become our values.

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

More than anything else, beware of these Pharisees and the way they pretend to be good when they aren't. But such hypocrisy cannot be hidden forever. Luke 12:1 (TLB)

- Many people distance themselves from Jesus because of **hypocrisy** in those who follow Jesus.

Hypocrisy prevents us from **being like Jesus**.

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)

What Hypocrisy is:

- Hypocrisy is the difference between who I claim to be **publicly** and how I live **privately**.
- Hypocrisy is a **heart** issue; We believe it's okay to be less than **authentic** with others.

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

Watch yourselves carefully so you don't get contaminated with Pharisee yeast, Pharisee phoniness. You can't keep your true self hidden forever; before long you'll be exposed. **You can't hide behind a religious mask forever**; sooner or later the mask will slip and your true face will be known. You can't whisper one thing in private and preach the opposite in public; the day's coming when those whispers will be repeated all over town. Luke 12:1-3 (MSG)

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)

In the morning, as Jesus was returning to Jerusalem, he was hungry, 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)

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)

- 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.

Psalms 139:23-24 (NLT)

Jesus has zero tolerance for hypocrisy, but unlimited **grace** for those who turn from it.

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)

There is hope for change...

- The God who **knows** you is the one who can **change** you.

- We don't close the gap with **perfection**.

God, see what is in my heart. Know what is there. Put me to the test. Know what I'm thinking. See if there's anything in my life you don't like. **Help me** live in the way that is always right. Psalm 139:23-24 (NIRV)

- We close the gap with **Jesus**.

...Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:22-23 (NIV)



**TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE
IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.**

Questions for Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- In your own words the does it mean to be like Jesus?
- Why is it important to remember that as Christ followers we are learners of the values of Jesus?
- Do you believe that hypocrisy is a problem in the church? Do you know anyone that does not go to church because they believe this is an issue in the church?
- What are some way that Christians are hypocritical? Do you struggle with hypocrisy?
- Why do you think people are hypocrites?
- How does hypocrisy keep us from being "Like Jesus"?
- Why did Jesus hate hypocrisy in the Pharisee's?
- Do you agree with the statement - "We have nothing to fear when we have nothing to hide"? Explain.
- If hypocrisy is hiding from others, why is it important that we know that God knows us and still loves us?
- Why is perfection not the answer to ending Hypocrisy? How does perfection feed hypocrisy?
- How does drawing close to Jesus allow God to deal with our hypocrisy?

For more Talks, visit us at:
fresnoquest.com