

The Danger of Hypocrisy... We have all heard the line... I would never join the church... it's full of hypocrites... Unfortunately there are too many... but they are also in the health club, The Republican party, the Democratic party, the work place, the school, and even the home. The terms [..double standard](#), living a double life, Do as I say not as I do... that person is two faced.....the term back stabber... faker... are all statements that refer to some kind of hypocrisy

- **Hypocrisy...(hypokrisis) does not mean we don't measure up to our beliefs or standards...that simply means we are human beings-- we are all hypocrites by that standard!**
- The word hypocrisy comes from the Greek theatre: literally it means to *Act (krinomai) from under and (hypo) a mask... play acting on purpose... pretending to be someone but in reality you are someone else*
- for example children play hypocrite according to the Greek definition used in the bible all the time...they play act... they are...Spiderman or a princess or a mommy or daddy or sports hero or movie star...knowing all the time they are not that person.
- **Or one who pretends to have virtues, moral or religious beliefs, feigning to live by principles, that he or she does not actually possess...**
- **For example story of man and woman at drive up fast food restaurant ...who was mistakenly given the bag of the days cash instead of their order. They leave and park to eat and discover the bag...the gentleman drives back and returns the bag...very honest...the manger is blown away and wants to take their picture and give the them gift cards as a thank you....the couple refuses...but the manager insists on honoring them...but they adamantly refuse to be photographed together...guess why? They are each married to someone else...Hypocrites!**

**Hypocrisy...everywhere is definitely viewed as wrong. In matters of religion, it's downright evil.**

- **More people have been turned off to Jesus because of the hypocritical life styles of his leaders or followers than any other means...Hypocrisy destroys the message.**

- **And that is what the message Jesus deals with today....**

**Back story to this passage of Luke... Jesus from the beginning of his ministry had an ongoing feud with the religious leaders of his day...**

**leading up to His giving the woes and sorrows speech to the Pharisees and teachers of the law... .. Jesus has just delivered a man from a demon and healed him from being both mute and blind ...and the religious leaders said it was by the power of the Devil... This is at least the 7<sup>th</sup> time ...Jesus had been publicly confronted by the Religious folk... after this Jesus is invited to dinner by a Pharisee...**

*NLT Luke 11:37 As Jesus was speaking, one of the Pharisees invited him home for a meal. So he went in and took his place at the table.<sup>[1]</sup> <sup>38</sup> His host was amazed to see that he sat down to eat without first performing the hand-washing ceremony required by Jewish custom. <sup>39</sup> Then the Lord said to him, “You Pharisees are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy—full of greed and wickedness! <sup>40</sup> Fools! Didn’t God make the inside as well as the outside? <sup>42</sup> “What sorrow awaits you Pharisees! ....*

*<sup>45</sup> “Teacher,” said an expert in religious law, “you have insulted us, too, in what you just said.” <sup>46</sup> “**Yes,**” said Jesus, “what sorrow also awaits you experts in religious law! For you crush people with unbearable religious demands, and you never lift a finger to ease the burden.*

- That must have been the most awkward meal ever....the longer the meal went on...the more enraged the religious leaders became...
- Lets take a quick peak at the religious leaders called the Pharisees and the experts in religious Law

**The Pharisees (separatist)....** They were the extremely conservative sect of religious teachers of the Law and were the religious political arm who opposed roman rule, and looked at Roman taxation as robbing God...only about 6000 or so of them but highly influential to the people and feared by them...

- 1) **they strictly kept the law in all matters...Holding strictly** to the traditions both oral and written by the scribes and their own sect **handed down thru time**
- 2) they felt all other Jews who did not practice their brand of Judaism were lax in their keeping of Religious law, so they separated themselves from them and especially gentile sinners...and even lived in their own neighborhoods...
- 3) **People respected the Pharisees for their religious zealotness ...Law and legalism were their God**
- 4) **they thought they could earn and righteousness with God by their adherence to every ritual meticulously performed ritual and tradition...**
- 5) **They rigorously followed the most minor details of the Law and this was their major preoccupation...and looked down upon and judged the other less diligent people...**

**The Teachers of the Law or Scribes...Whom Most were Pharisees, The dual roles led to being called Rabbi, Teacher**

The scribes make up a group of individuals who enjoyed the authority of leadership in Israel. They were not a sect but a profession;

They were the most educated class in ancient Israel, they studied the scripture and served as copyist, editors and teachers and were responsible for the transmission of religious texts and other legal and historical documents. It **was a life long profession...Study started at 14 and graduation came at 40.**

Upon Graduation they became the Judges and ruled in matters of civil and religious law. And **Their official interpretation of Biblical law...(the books of Moses) became more important than the Law/Torah itself**

They lectured on it in synagogues, taught it in schools, debated it in public and private, and applied it in judgment on specific cases.

The most distinguished religious position of the day was that of a scribe/Teacher of the Law. **they wore special long robes and were always given a seat of honor at public gatherings, such as the synagogue, in the marketplace, and at weddings; they were looked up as living models to be followed and were Held in great esteem by the people...**

They competed with the regular Pharisees in keeping the minutest parts of the law.. Two famous scribes were Nicodemus, in the Gospels Gamaliel whom Paul says he sat under .

**They sought to preserve Judaism against opponents like Jesus. And he enraged them by calling them out on their Hypocrisy ...**

**This is what Jesus said about them....They played spiritual leader...but their hearts were far from it..**

*Matt 23: 5 “Everything they do is for show. On their arms they wear extra wide prayer boxes with Scripture verses inside, and they wear robes with extra long tassels. 6 And they love to sit at the head table at banquets and in the seats of honor in the synagogues. 7 They love to receive respectful greetings as they walk in the marketplaces, and to be called ‘Rabbi. .. (praise, position and power were their motivation)*

*Matt 23:23 “What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens,<sup>[g]</sup> but you ignore the more important aspects of the **law—justice, mercy, and faith**. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things*

- **So as the meal is ending...the enraged Pharisees and teachers of the Law make a plan**

*Luke 11: 53 As Jesus was leaving, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees became hostile and tried to provoke him with many questions. 54 They wanted to trap him into saying something they could use against him. **Catch him breaking the law of Moses..***

- They would hunt Jesus like a wild animal...they had enough!!!
- **Jesus leaves ....more people than ever follow him**

*LK 12:1 Meanwhile, when a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so that they were trampling on one another, Jesus began to **speak first to his disciples**, saying: "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.*

- **The yeast puffs up...the loaf large...but is devoid of nutrition**

- It is hypocritical...appears to be filling ...but is actually the opposite...hypocrisy does such damage to testimony
- But he tells his disciples...take heart.

### The Lord's First principle (12:2-3)..hypocrisy will be found out

*NLT Luke 12: <sup>2</sup> The time is coming when everything that is covered up will be revealed, and all that is secret will be made known to all. <sup>3</sup> Whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be shouted from the housetops for all to hear!*

Summarized as a principle, Jesus' meaning would be something like this: walk and talk are inseparable...ones walk either confirms or denies ones talk...

HIDING THE TRUTH, IS FUTILE, BECAUSE THE TRUTH CANNOT AND WILL NOT BE CONCEALED FOR LONG.

- It will be revealed...so Do not be afraid...of these people
- this is the second principle...

### The Lord's Second principle (12:4-7)... Don't Fear opposition!!

*NLT LK 12:4 “Dear friends, don't be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot do any more to you after that.*

- The Lord's word “friends” for His disciples sets the tone for this paragraph. You have me as a friend!! It will all work out!
- The normal human fear is the fear of man, and his ultimate fear is the fear of physical death ...
- Whenever Jesus says don't be afraid...it is because they are afraid!! These people have great power!! They can ruin us!! Destroy Our reputation, as they are more educated, better connected...and can kick us out of the Temple...literally crush us...



- **Jesus defused this fear by showing that His disciples should rather fear God:**

*<sup>5</sup> But I'll tell you whom to fear. Fear God, who has the power to kill you and then throw you into hell. Yes, he's the one to fear. Even if they kill you that is not a problem...you will be with me!! So fear God not people!!*

- **And when they die...you know there is a hell!! And that is a very legitimate sense in which men should “fear” God..**
- **Fear of man becomes a false god....fear of man can become a god to us...fear of death can become a god to us....**
- **Jesus did not seek to minimize the fact that many of them might die, but did seek to put that death into perspective.**
- **He told His disciples but if you want to be motivated by fear listen...those that can only cause physical death are not to be feared, but rather the one who can cause spiritual death—spending eternity in hell separated from God fear him...if you want to be motivated by fear....**
- **Thus, the fear of man, which might incline one to hypocrisy, is overshadowed by God,**

**BUT LISTEN...The One who is to be feared is also the One who has a deep love and intimate concern for His disciples.**

*<sup>6</sup> “What is the price of five sparrows—two copper coins? Yet God does not forget a single one of them. **If He knows and cares about a dying sparrow, which has little value to man.***

- **how much more will he be involved in the passing of one of his disciples???**

- **And how much more is He involved in our everyday lives!**
- **We don't have to be afraid, for our Father is watching over us 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. He really, really loves us and is involved in the smallest details of our lives.**
- **Nothing, then, will happen to the disciple, even death, outside of God's infinite knowledge, love, and care.**
- **His care is such that He knows the very hairs of a person's head.**

*NLT Luke 12:7 And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows.*

- I only think of my hair in the aggregate, not as individuals. But Jesus says that the very hairs on my head are numbered.
- He says that God is vitally interested in each hair number, even though I myself consider it too trivial to worry about.
- if God cares so much about our individual hairs, then He must care about the things that are more important than hairs.
- **So we should never think our problems are too trivial or that we are too insignificant for God to care about us.**
- **We can and should always approach Him confidently in prayer, no matter how trivial our concerns may seem to others.**

**So, Don't be afraid...you are my friends... individually...if he cares about the seemingly insignificant how much more will he be there for the big like persecution....**

**The Lord's Third principle Don't be a hypocrite yourself.. (12:8-10) There is yet another reason why the Lord's disciples should**



## **beware of the hypocrisy of trying to appear that one is not a disciple when they are...**

*NLT LK 12: 8 “I tell you the truth, everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, the Son of Man will also acknowledge in the presence of God’s angels. 9 But anyone who denies me here on earth will be denied before God’s angels. 10 **Anyone** who speaks against the Son of Man can be forgiven, but anyone who blasphemes the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.*

- **At first appearance this text seems to be warning the disciple that he might lose his salvation by denying the Savior, by his hypocrisy. This is not the case, however.**
- **In our text, there is a definite change from the second person (“you”) to the third person (“everyone and anyone”). He is speaking of those outside who say things against Jesus...he is speaking to encourage his followers...if they speak against me...it will return to them. So don’t worry.**
- **Jesus is saying to his followers those ‘other people’ who disown me to others ...I will disown them to my Father and the angels...in other words those that confess that Jesus is the messiah on earth...he will confess them as disciples in heaven**
- **The disciples must not waver in their boldness, for they must set and example for those who would come to faith. Knowing God cares for each of them individually no matter what happens...he has it taken care of!!**

@@

**they were scholars educated in the law, they were drawn from the priests and Levites, as well as the common people.**

**They were the upper class who enjoyed the authority of leadership in Israel.**

**In fact...**

**So Jesus is saying to his followers... How can you put upon men to publicly profess their faith in Christ for salvation if you, at the same time, try to conceal your own faith? It is hypocritical...**

- In times of persecution, such as the early days of the church, a decision to trust in Christ was most unpopular, and could lead to persecution by some even rejection by one’s family.

*2CO 5:7 We live by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup> We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup> So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.*

**Not only that.....He also**

**and this is why...influence people to do things that often contradict their selfish, self-centered desires, so the indication of a double standard**

- **Their interest in Jesus was not in what he was doing.... For they had personally witnessed many miracles... including the feeding of 5k**
- **They were concerned with him and his followers keeping the rituals and traditions passed down by the previous generations**
- **They had ...Rebuked him for healing on the Sabbath...**
  1. **rebuked him for...blaspheming ...and claiming to have the power to forgive sin**
  2. **rebuked him for eating with known sinners...non religious people**
  3. **For not fasting like the Pharisees did once or twice a week...a show of public holiness...who cares if he healed somebody!**

end

**Matt 23:1** Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, <sup>2</sup> “The teachers of religious law and the Pharisees are the official interpreters of the law of Moses.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>3</sup> So practice and obey whatever they tell you, but don’t follow their example. For they don’t practice what they teach. <sup>4</sup> They crush people with unbearable religious demands and never lift a finger to ease the burden.

@@@ **NLT Luke 12:1** Meanwhile, the crowds grew until thousands were milling about and stepping on each other. Jesus turned first to his disciples and warned them, “Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees—their hypocrisy.

## 6) The Pharisees

- **The Pharisees (separatist)....** An extremely conservative sect of religious leaders and politicians who opposed roman rule, and looked at Roman taxation as robbing God...only 6000 or so of them but highly influential....to the people and feared by them...
- **they strictly kept the law in all matters...and all the traditions handed down thru time**
- **also held to the tradition both oral and written by the scribes and their own sect...**
- **they felt all other Jews who did not practice their brand of Judaism were lax in their keeping of Religious law, so they separated themselves from them and especially gentile sinners...and even lived in their own neighborhoods...**
- **People respected the Pharisees for their religious zealousness ...Law and legalism were their God**
- **they thought they could earn and righteousness with God by their adherence to every ritual meticulously performed... The Pharisees and the teachers of the Law competed with one another in strictness.**
- **the most minor details of the Law were their major preoccupation...and looked down upon and judged the other less diligent people...**

- **For those of us who were once bored or have issues with religion...it was because you were in relationship with religion...religion like all man made things get troublesome, stagnant ...and dead after a while...there is no life for it is a thing...**

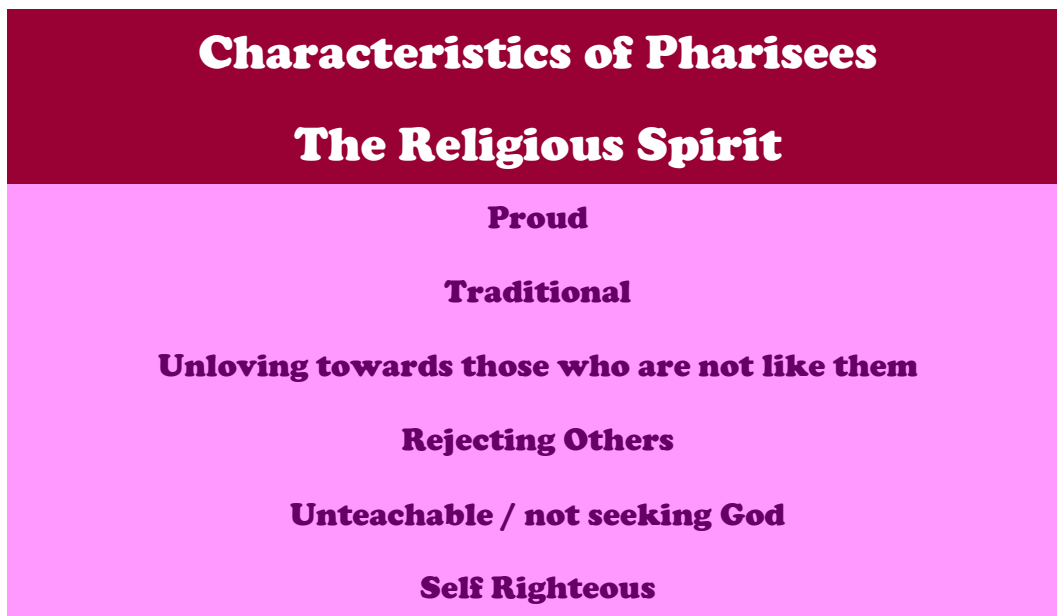
<sup>2</sup> The time is coming when everything that is covered up will be revealed, and all that is secret will be made known to all. <sup>3</sup> Whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be shouted from the housetops for all to hear!

<sup>4</sup> "Dear friends, don't be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot do any more to you after that. <sup>5</sup> But I'll tell you whom to fear. Fear God, who has the power to kill you and then throw you into hell.<sup>Ⓜ</sup> Yes, he's the one to fear.

<sup>6</sup> "What is the price of five sparrows—two copper coins<sup>Ⓜ</sup>? Yet God does not forget a single one of them. <sup>7</sup> And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows.

<sup>8</sup> "I tell you the truth, everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, the Son of Man<sup>14</sup> will also acknowledge in the presence of God's angels. <sup>9</sup> But anyone who denies me here on earth will be denied before God's angels. <sup>10</sup> Anyone who speaks against the Son of Man can be forgiven, but anyone who blasphemes the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

<sup>11</sup> "And when you are brought to trial in the synagogues and before rulers and authorities, don't worry about how to defend yourself or what to say, <sup>12</sup> for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what needs to be said."



Example: The way Jesus described the Pharisees' fasting. They would make themselves look haggardly, but they had no intention of being broken in heart. It was just a pretense.

Let's beware of the yeast of the Pharisees. It is alive and well today. But God is not fooled by it. In fact, Jesus says, "There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known." In other words, our motives will be revealed. So, God -- create in me a clean heart! And renew a right spirit within me!