

STUDY NOTES

THE WAY AND THE WORDS OF JESUS A SERIES *at* NEW CITY CHURCH

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message “Am I Living Like A Pharisee?” on 2/4/18 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these Study Notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 11:37-54

WOE TO THE PHARISEES

This Pharisee condemned Jesus for eating without ceremoniously cleansing his hands. Jesus used this interaction to call out the Pharisees hypocrisy. They tithed down to their herbs, because they were commanded to tithe. However, they didn't pursue God with their heart and they didn't love other people.

- *How is it easier to work on external behavior than it is to work on internal behavior?*

The Pharisees wanted to be recognized for their right living. They believed they were the perfect citizens of the Kingdom of God, so they wanted people to see the way that they lived. Jesus gets so angry with them because they were teaching that people had to be perfect to be citizens in the Kingdom.

- *How have you felt like you've had to get everything together before coming to Jesus?*

WOE TO THE LAWYERS

The lawyers knew the Law and the tradition even better than the Pharisees, so they walked around with the Pharisees to point out when the Pharisees (and other people

for that matter) weren't keeping the Law or the tradition. This is why Jesus says that they load people with burdens without helping them. Jesus also exposes the greed of these lawyers. They built monuments at the graves of the prophets of old. This allowed the lawyers to profit off people seeking to reflect on these messages. We may not charge people to worship, but we do look to profit off Jesus.

We often turn to Jesus in our love of self, not love of him.

- *How do you look to Jesus to change your circumstances?*

WOE TO ME?

So how did these Pharisees and lawyers get to this place? It might have been easier than we would expect. Think about our own lives. How often do...

Christians tithe, yet neglect the love and the justice of God?
Christians want to be recognized for their right-living?
Christians live hidden lives that are unclean?
Christians try to profit off the message of Jesus?

- *Has anyone ever put external expectations on you? How did that impact you?*

JESUS SOLVES THE TENSION

We all should have a tension that we could live like a Pharisee. However, the best part is that we don't have to solve the tension. Jesus solves it for us, because we won't ever be able to measure up, yet he loved us anyway. Jesus sacrificed himself taking our punishment for sin in place of us. When we follow Jesus both internally AND externally, we become our best selves, which are not a Pharisees.

Your best self is your self that is most like Christ.

- *How does Jesus change your circumstances by changing you?*
- *How do you respond when Jesus reveals sin in your life?*
- *What could you do to fall more in love with Jesus?*
- *Pray with each other that we'd all fall more in love with Jesus.*