

**Sermon: Warning Signs of Hypocrisy.**  
**Series: Luke: The Gospel for Everyone.**

**Scripture: Luke 11:37-54.**  
**Date: February 16, 2025**

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**OBSERVATION** -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

**INTERPRETATION** -- Answer these questions together:

**1. What does this passage teach us about us?**

a) A common charge against Christians is that they are hypocrites. Why do you think many Christians struggle with hypocrisy? Where do you see hypocrisy in the Christian church, specifically in this church?

**2. What does this passage teach us about God?**

a) Jesus is proclaiming severe judgment against the Pharisees and lawyers for their hypocrisy. Why do you think hypocrisy (pretending to be something you're not) is such a serious offense to God deserving of such a strong warning?

**3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?**

a) V. 50-51. These verses are a preview of Christ's own death. "This generation" will be guilty of killing the prophets, specifically Jesus the greatest prophet. Why is hypocrisy such a hindrance to receiving God's grace through the gospel?

b) "A Christian acknowledges their hypocrisy and humbly seeks God's grace to transform them." How does the gospel of grace allow us to overcome our hypocrisy? Read Isaiah 6:5-7 to see this in action. How does the gospel transform how we read scripture and pray from hypocritical to humble? For example, see Luke 18:10-14.

**APPLICATION**

Think through these questions/warnings about hypocrisy together?

- V. 39-42. In what ways are you more concerned about outward appearances than inward holiness?
- V.42. In what ways do you focus on the minor things to the exclusion of the major things (love and justice)?
- V. 43. In what ways do you crave outward affirmation over inner holiness?
- V. 45-46. What unattainable standards do you place over others that you can't/don't keep yourself?
- V. 52. In what ways do you pay lip service to the word of God without actually obeying it?

**PRAYER**

- Praise God for his loving warnings to us about our sin, including our hypocrisy.
- Confess ways that you have lived hypocritically (pretending to be something you're not).
- Thank Jesus for taking our sin on himself so that we never have to pretend again.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to receive grace and live authentically before God.