

Building A Thriving Faith

November 27, 2022

³⁷As Jesus was speaking, one of the Pharisees invited Him home for a meal. So He went in and took His place at the table. ³⁸His host was amazed to see that He sat down to eat without first performing the hand-washing ceremony required by Jewish custom. ³⁹Then 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! ⁴⁰Fools! Didn’t God make the inside as well as the outside?’” Luke 11:37-40 (NLT)

Thriving Faith vs. Dead Religion

1. God values inner **PURITY** more than outward **APPEARANCE**. (37-41)

“Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” 1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV)

2. God cherishes **YOU** more than He values your **RITUALS**. (37-41)

“... this is what He requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” Micah 6:8 (NLT)

3. Pleasing **GOD** is more important than pleasing **PEOPLE**. (43-44)

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.” Matthew 6:1-2 (NIV)

4. A relationship with God gives **FREEDOM** not **BONDAGE**. (45-46)

“These people come near to Me with their mouth and honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me. Their worship of Me is based on merely human rules they have been taught.” Isaiah 29:13 (NIV)