

Blind Hypocrisy

Luke 6:39-42 - NCBC, November 19, 2017

Main Point: **Hypocrisy blinds you to spiritual danger.**

- Hypocrisy blinds you to false teaching (39)
- Hypocrisy blinds you to corrupting living (40)
- Hypocrisy blinds you to personal sin (41-42)

Application: **Repent of all arrogance and humbly submit to following Jesus.**

Opening Announcements:

Thanksgiving Eve Service – 7pm Weds Nov 22

<<Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery>>



The resurrection of Christ is our secure hope this morning as we gather to worship God. For the resurrection of Christ proves the power of God, assures us of eternal life¹ and victory over death,² and validates Jesus as the very Son of God who is the Savior of the world.³

Give thanks church, the grave could not hold Jesus! Christ's resurrection is the foretaste of *our* future deliverance – all by the grace and mercy of our Creator God.

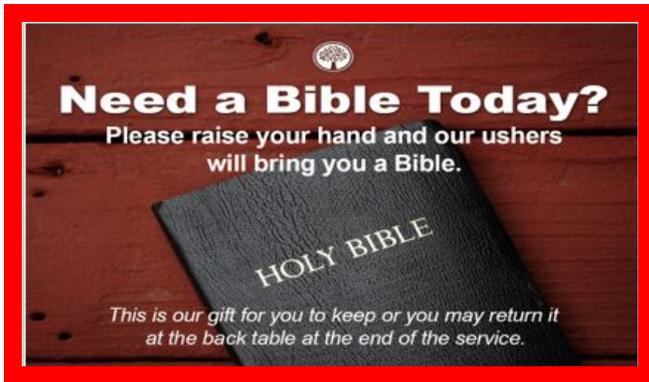
No wonder we open our hearts to God's Word in worship.

Please open your Bibles now to **Luke chapter 6**, where we continue our worship by considering further Jesus' sermon on the plain.

¹ John 11:25; 1 John 5:11-12

² 1 Corinthians 15:54-55

³ Matthew 16:1-4; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8; John 2:18-22



If you don't have a Bible with you this morning, please raise your hand as our men are coming to give you a Bible. You are welcome to take this Bible home as our gift to you, or just simply return it after our service by placing it on the table in the back of the room.

Let's quickly review what we've been learning so far in this study of Jesus' sermon on the plain in **Luke 6**.

Jesus is preaching about discipleship. What it means to really be His disciple. What it means to follow Him.

Remember this is not a sermon about how a person gets saved from their sins. Jesus had already been preaching the good news of salvation by faith in Christ alone for some time.⁴ God saves people from their sins through His grace alone. To be saved and have all your sins – past, present, and future – forgiven and cleansed you

⁴ Luke 4:43; 5:20

must just repent, or turn from your ongoing pursuit of sin, and put your faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ alone. Only the innocent blood of Jesus on the cross can wash away your sins. Only the resurrection of Jesus can set you free from sin's power. So simply believe on the Lord Jesus Christ – and you shall be saved and made new – transformed from an enemy of God into a child of God – a real disciple who follows Christ every day.

So then, how should a child of God really live?

<i>The Sermon on the Plain</i>		
<i>To receive God's grace means to share it!</i>		
Faith	Love	Obedience
6:20-26	6:27-38	6:39-49
Christ's disciples are marked by different values	Christ's disciples are marked by superior love	Christ's disciples are marked by hearing & doing
The motivation & manners of Christ's disciples		

Well this sermon answers that question with radical, counter-cultural truth. **Luke 6** teaches us that everyone who receives God's saving grace should likewise share it with others.

In **verses 20-26**, Christ teaches vastly different values that rule hearts so transformed by His grace. Last week we considered **verses 27-38**, where Jesus taught us about radical, spiritual love – the kind of love that actively does good to enemies, and prays for abusers, and

speaks well of those who curse you. These are the motivations and manners of Christ's true disciples.

Now this morning, we enter the final third of this sermon – and we slow down a bit to listen carefully to Jesus' strong emphasis upon obedience. God's children don't just hear the Scriptures – they live them.⁵ Christ's disciples are marked by hearing *and doing*.

Again Jesus doesn't hold back any punches.



His kingdom is topsy-turvy to everything in this present age. So, with eyes of faith, let's read these verses trusting God to grow our lives more and more into the joy of Christ-likeness together.

⁵ James 1:22-25

Please stand with me in honor of God's Word as I read from **Luke chapter 6, verse 39**, from the **English Standard Translation**:

³⁹ He also told them a parable: "Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? ⁴⁰ A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher. ⁴¹ Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴² How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.

These are the words of our Lord. You may be seated.

Let's Pray.

I'm so thankful God has given me the privilege of being one of the elders here at New Castle Bible Church. It's been a little over two years ago that God called my family and I to join this church family – and while serving as one of your pastors is not always easy of course – it's been a tremendous joy to my soul. Jody and I thank God for what He is doing in our lives and in this ministry through you – and we firmly believe we are right where God has designed us to be.

And while I have this opportunity – let me just express my thanks to you for being such an amazing church. Your teachability and love for Christ humbles me greatly. After last week’s message on loving our enemies – three different members shared with me how God is convicting them to forgive someone who hurt them deeply. I’ll just tell you – that’s a work of God’s Spirit – and you greatly encourage your pastor. Thanks for being so responsive to God’s Word.

When I stop and think about it, I’m blown away that God would give sinners like me the privilege of feeding His church the Word of God on a regular basis. Because proclaiming God’s message is always a high calling.

You didn’t hire me to tell stories and make you feel good, and entertain you once a week. You hired me to rightly divide the Word of God⁶ – to cut-it-straight – and give the sense,⁷ right? You hired me to teach God’s Word unapologetically – in context – and with relevance to our daily lives – so that we might all better know and worship our God and Savior Jesus with the head, heart, hands, and home of a true disciple!

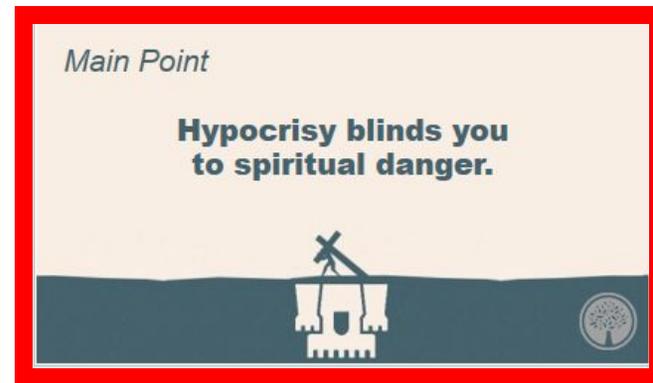
So as teachable as you are – I fully recognize that the teaching from this series is stretching all of us. And rightly so!

⁶ 2 Timothy 2:15

⁷ Nehemiah 8:8

Jesus is calling us to a level of perfection and righteousness that is unattainable apart from His Spirit’s provision.⁸ **Luke 6** isn’t a feel-good pick-me-upper message. But I’m committed to teach it as it is. Because **Luke 6** is a life-giving message – for Jesus is warning us about a milquetoast, tepid Christianity that would merely nod in agreement to God’s Word, but fail to apply it in the daily shoe leather of life’s relationships, challenges, and disappointments. And specifically, in the verses we’re considering today, Jesus is warning us about hypocrisy.

Every one of us needs to hear and obey this message. None of us are exempt from the self-deluding blindness of hypocrisy. Jesus is warning His disciples to understand that,



Hypocrisy always blinds you to spiritual danger.

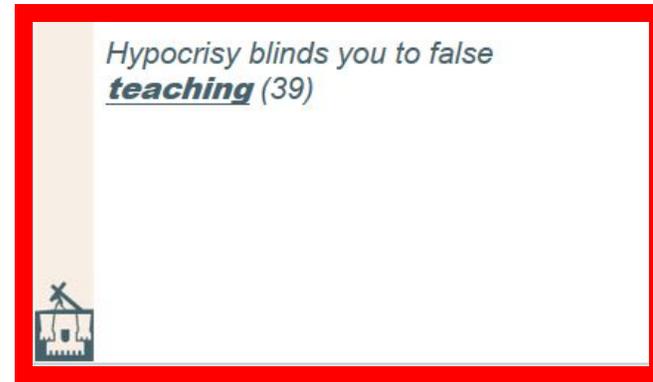
⁸ Matthew 5:48

Just because other people affirm your level of spirituality in this life is not good enough. We must humble ourselves and submit to the penetrating light of God's Word into our souls this morning – to avoid the blinding dangers of all spiritual pretending for the mere praise of others.

Verse 39 starts with Luke's interjection into Christ's sermon: *He also told them a parable.*

Jesus now uses 6 pairs or couplets in the rest of this sermon to illustrate the contrast between a wise disciple and a foolish disciple. There's two blind men in **verse 39**, the teacher and the student in **verse 40**, two brothers in **verses 41-42**, good and bad trees in **verses 43-44**, good and evil people in **verse 45**, and two houses in **verses 46-49**. The three illustrations we consider today are more like proverbs – illustrative and at times humorous – they help accentuate Jesus' point that His disciples are different from the rest of the world – for His disciples hear and obey His authoritative teaching.

In **verse 39** then, Jesus warns us that,



Hypocrisy blinds you to false teaching (39)

The proverb is simple enough:

Can a blind man lead a blind man? You have two men here – and they are both blind. One of them says to the other – follow me... is this going to end well?

The assumed answer is – No! A blind man cannot effectively lead another blind man.

Will they not both fall into a pit?

Yes, of course! If a blind person tries to lead another blind person for very long – they will both die – and end up in the grave together!

Now what's Jesus' point, and how does it relate to what has just come before?

Verse 39 transitions the subject of the sermon. Jesus had just taught that the poor are blessed, the rich are to be pitied, the abused should pray for their abusers, and Godly love always seeks the eternal good of human enemies.

He knows His Kingdom ethics are completely upside-down to the religious teaching of the scribes and Pharisees. This is not the normal diet of “Moral-Therapeutic Deism”⁹ that people were used to hearing from their religious teachers.

So why is Jesus’ teaching so topsy-turvy compared to the teaching of other human religions?

Because the other religious leaders can’t see Truth. The Jewish scribes and Pharisees are blind – unable to see the light of Christ¹⁰ and understand that He is the Son of God in human flesh – and therefore though they sincerely claim to speak for God – they are really blind people offering spiritual guidance to other blind people. They pretend to be spiritual guides – but can only lead people to become what they are themselves – white-washed tombs destined for eternal judgment.¹¹

Jesus point for us today is this,

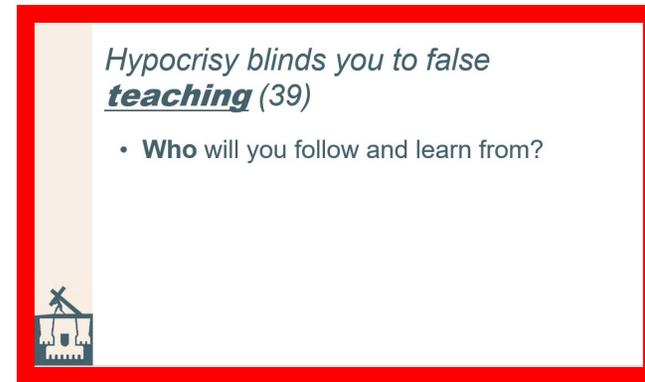
⁹

<https://albertmohler.com/2005/04/11/moralistic-therapeutic-deism-the-new-american-religion-2/>

¹⁰ 1 Corinthians 2:14

¹¹ Matthew 23:13-15; 27-28

Page **6a** of 14



Who will you follow and learn from?

And are you discerning enough to recognize the blind hypocrisy of false teachers when they offer to be your spiritual guide?

Verse 37 above commanded us not to judge – not to look down on others’ weakness, but instead to be merciful even as God is merciful.

But the mercy of Christ’s disciples is not contrary to their devotion to God’s truth. Scripture warns us repeatedly that all who claim to speak for God are not to be trusted.¹² We must watch our life and teaching carefully.¹³ Unfortunately not every group that claims to be a

¹² 2 Peter 2:1-3; Romans 16:17-19; 1 Timothy 6:3-5; Galatians 1:8; etc. etc.

¹³ 1 Timothy 4:16

Page **6b** of 14

Christian church really teaches Christ's truth. Biblically there are false teachers and false churches today!

Listen – the Christians in Berea searched the Scriptures daily to confirm that what they were being taught was truly from the Word of God.¹⁴ And so must we. Because we are surrounded by all kinds of blind guides who are using the same Scriptures as Christ – and only leading people astray.

So, who do you listen to?

In our internet-connected world, when it comes to your values and beliefs – your affections and your worship – your purpose and your priorities – who is your guide?

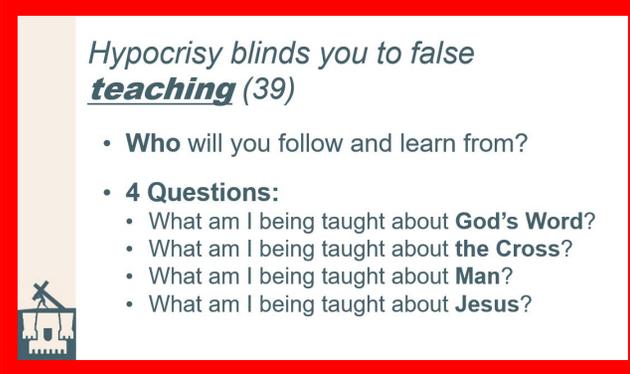
Be careful loved ones – because not everyone who claims to be Christian will guide you deeper into Christ.

If you search Amazon.com for “Christian” books, you will discover more than 1 million options...yet most of these resources are full of false teaching. So how can you avoid the blind hypocrisy of false teaching? How can you make sure that you are not following blind guides?

Perhaps you should start by asking 4 simple questions¹⁵ suggested by Pastor Matt Chandler about what you're really being taught:

¹⁴ Acts 17:11

¹⁵ Taken from Matt Chandler's sermon on Luke 6:39 entitled "Of Dangers and Ditches", <https://www.tvresources.net/resource-library/sermons/of-danger-and-ditches>



Hypocrisy blinds you to false teaching (39)

- **Who** will you follow and learn from?
- **4 Questions:**
 - What am I being taught about **God's Word**?
 - What am I being taught about **the Cross**?
 - What am I being taught about **Man**?
 - What am I being taught about **Jesus**?

Ask yourself,

- 1) What am I being taught about God's Word?
- 2) What am I being taught about the Cross?
- 3) What am I being taught about Man?
- 4) What am I being taught about Jesus?

First, are my spiritual guides reinforcing the authority and purity of God's Word? Am I being taught to more fully depend on the written revelation of God's all-sufficient Word – or am I being deceived to follow an inner voice? Is God's Word alive and active – or dead and irrelevant? Is God's Word the source of what I'm being taught – or is God's Word just used to support my teacher's own conclusions and experiences and intuitions? How is this guide teaching me about God's Word?

Second, what does this person teach about Christ's cross? Do they add anything to the cross? Is the work of

the cross entirely sufficient to cover my sins and make me spiritual – or is the cross PLUS some moral code required for true spirituality? Church – we could wish that legalism was dead – but it is alive and well in our present culture. What are you being taught about the work of Jesus on the cross for your full and complete salvation?

Third, see through the hypocrisy of false teachers by asking, what are they teaching about the essence of Man? Biblically man's greatest problem is sin, and his greatest need is salvation. But this is not commonly taught today. Instead false teachers abound in their teaching that man is inherently good. So-called Christian speakers and writers are everywhere today saying that God made everything for us – and that we are the centerpiece of His attention – and that we are inherently great. But God is not our servant, and He doesn't need us to fix His loneliness. God is not a risk-taker who ultimately just serves the whimsical decisions of men. Man is brought forth in iniquity,¹⁶ and dead in our trespasses and sin.¹⁷ False teachers always make God more like a human, and elevate humans to be more like God.¹⁸

Which leads us to the fourth question, What am I being taught about Jesus? Is Jesus merely just a good example to follow? Or is He truly the Son of God – God in the Flesh – Lord and Master of all creation who

¹⁶ Psalm 51:5

¹⁷ Ephesians 2:1-3

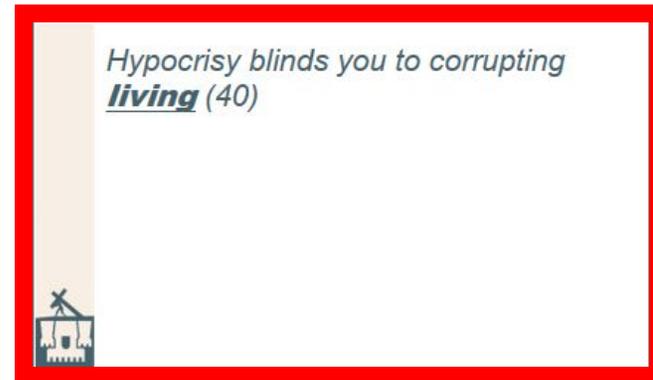
¹⁸ Psalm 50:21

deserves to be obeyed no matter the cost to my own rights or desires? Most Christian guides today present Jesus as an effeminate genie who exists to make you happy – rather than the Most Holy who bore the anger of God which your sins deserved to mercifully grant you an eternal inheritance forever with Him.

Just these simple four questions will go a long way in exposing the blind hypocrisy of spiritual guides who can only lead you to become more like themselves.

The parable **in verse 39** makes a clear point: A blind guide will only lead you to disaster. Only Jesus can speak for God with authority – because only He is God – fully righteous, wise, and loving.

Next **verse 40** warns us to be careful who we follow, because you will become like your teacher.



Hypocrisy blinds you to corrupting living (40)

Verse 40 says, *A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.*

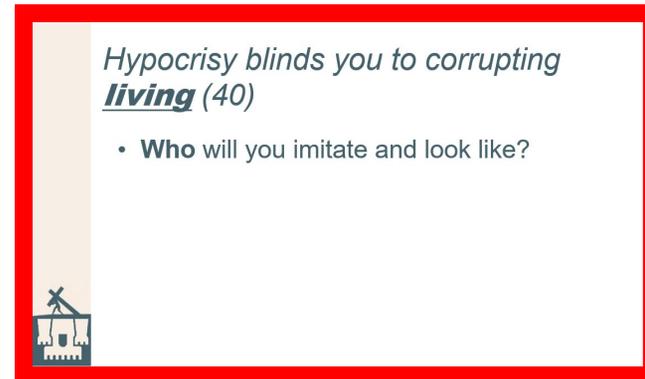
In other words – the nature of the teacher-student relationship is one of character transfer. This is such a powerful truth. Don't miss both its warning and its promise.

Don't believe the lie that you can follow the teaching of a greedy person and avoid becoming greedy yourself. Don't be so self-righteous that you believe you can follow the teaching of someone who is controlled by lust without finding yourself like them at the end of their training.

Orthopraxy always follows orthodoxy. Living always follows teaching. You shall know them by their fruits – **verse 44** says. Beware of teaching from religious legalists – because they will use Scripture and claim to really speak for God – but at the end they will only help you become more self-righteous and alienated from God.

Here's the danger of hypocrisy: hypocrites believe they see, when they're really blind. Hypocrisy pretends to be spiritual on the outside – only to hide the darkness of sin on the inside. The danger of hypocrisy is really the self-deluding blindness of self-righteousness – a lack of self-examination – an overconfidence – an inability to see oneself clearly – all while affirming oneself by the judgmental comparisons of others according to your own self-made religious standards.

So Jesus is presenting a radically different motivation and manner for His disciples from the other religious teachers in His day. Basically, He's asking this question,



Who will you imitate and look like?

The religious scribes and Pharisees had the best religious education that the world could offer in their day. Comparatively – Jesus' disciples were simple uneducated, common men.

But in **Acts 4:13**, these religious rulers and scribes saw the boldness of Peter and John and were astonished. For although they were just common uneducated men, *they recognized they had been with Jesus!*

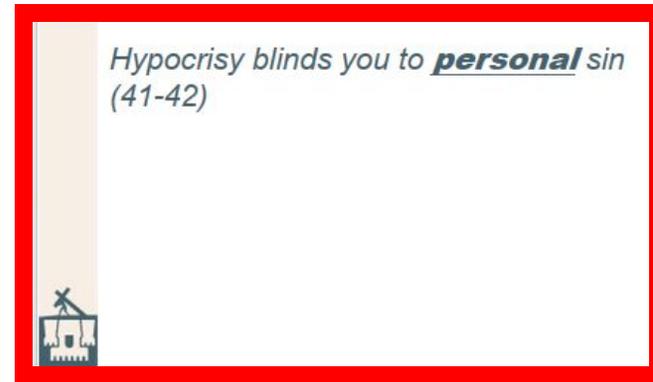
A disciple is going to become like his teacher – and for those who follow Jesus – what a promise! Yes, to follow Christ does mean that you will share in His sufferings – but it also means that you'll come to see Him more and more clearly – and become more and more transformed

into His glory by His Spirit over time.¹⁹ To be fully trained by God's wisdom is to become fully mature in Christ!²⁰ And there is no greater freedom and joy that we can ever experience than to truly know God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Therefore, beware of the contagious spiritual decay of false teachers who are mere peddlers of God's Word for their own profit.²¹ Beware of those who prey upon the naivete of consumers to pad their own pockets and lead lives ruled by sensual pleasure.²²

You must recognize the reality of false teachers in this present age – and seek to hear and obey the teaching of Jesus Christ to avoid the dangers of blind hypocrisy.

Finally in **verses 41-42**, Jesus teaches that,



Hypocrisy blinds you to personal sin (41-42)

While you must beware of hypocrisy in others – take note to see clearly the hypocrisy within you as well.

Perhaps we can follow the sermon's logic this way:

Be careful who you choose as your spiritual teachers – for you will become like them when you're fully trained. Don't choose another human as your spiritual guide – but rather choose Jesus – God Himself – and become a disciple of Him. But as you seek to follow Christ, you must be humble – for self-righteous hypocrisy will prevent you from sharing the love, mercy, and generosity of Christ with others.

Verse 41 provides a picture of two brothers: One of them has an irritating speck of sawdust in his eye. His brother wants to help him get the speck out – but unfortunately this well-intentioned eye-doctor has a huge

¹⁹ 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

²⁰ Colossians 1:28-29

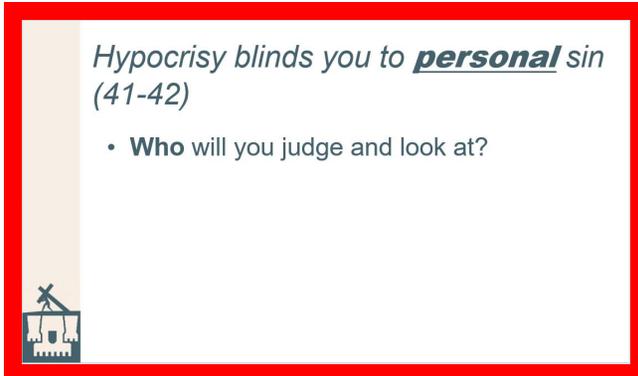
²¹ 2 Corinthians 2:17

²² 1 Timothy 6:5; Jude 4; 2 Peter 2:1-3; Romans 16:18

beam sticking out of his own eye. It's quite humorous isn't it?

Which one of you would go to an eye surgeon who had a long 2x4 stuck in his eye? It's never going to happen is it?! As long as the eager eye-doctor is blind to his own blindness – he is unable to truly help someone else with their problem.

And here's the point for us today:



Who will you judge and look at?

Who has the greatest sin that concerns you? Whose sin matters most to you?

Hypocrites are blind to their own sin – while they are masters at sniffing out the sins of others. But this is not righteous love.

Christ's real disciples are humble – not arrogant. They log-hunt, more than speck hunt. They see their own sin first, worst, and most.

Listen – this kind of humility is foundational to the kind of love and faith that Jesus has called us towards in the first parts of this sermon. And notice – Jesus is not saying that you must be perfect before you can ever help someone else with their sin. If that was the case, I'd be out looking for another job, right?

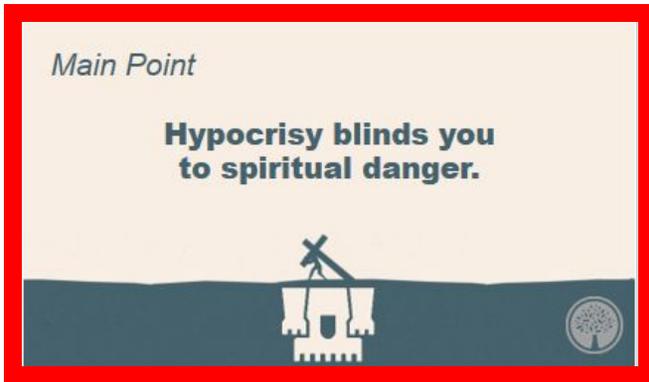
The point is just this, the beam of self-righteousness will blind you to your own hypocrisy – and you'll go through life trying to fix your spouse, your kids, and your coworkers...all the while completely ignorant of your own proud hypocrisy. You'll believe yourself better than others even while you're doing the exact same thing that you're judging them for.

It's easy to see this in others isn't it?

But if you want to hear and obey Jesus' teaching – and really grow in supernatural love – the kind of spiritual love that fulfills the law of Christ by gently restoring others who are caught in any sin,²³ then you must be humble enough to see your own sin as first, worst, and most.

To do anything else is self-righteous hypocrisy. And,

²³ Galatians 6:1-2

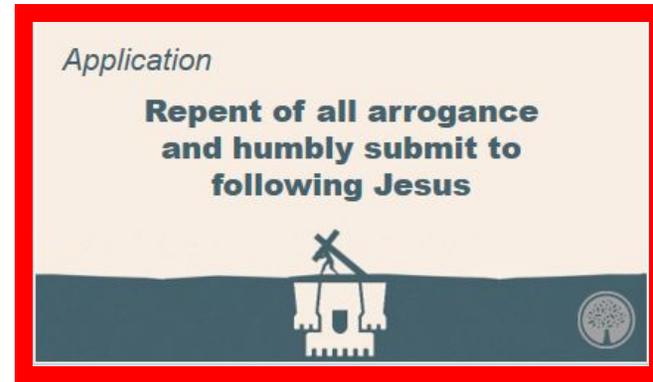


Hypocrisy only blinds you to spiritual danger.

Jesus has used three simple illustrations to challenge our response to His radical topsy-turvy expectations for His disciples.

Who will you follow and imitate? Other religious people, or Christ Himself?

The lesson this morning seems straightforward, doesn't it?



God is calling each of us to repent of all arrogance and humbly submit to following Jesus.

Let me get very practical as we bring this message to a close this morning.

Are you aware of any sin or hypocrisy in your life? How does the beam of self-righteousness protrude from your eye this morning?

1 John 1:8 says, *If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

Not one of us here today is sinless. We all are still in a Spirit-powered battle with personal sin. Thus the first step in overcoming hypocrisy is being able to see your own sin clearly.

Maybe you are quick to judge others for being late, or for spending too much money, or for being insensitive, or for being selfish – all while you are justifying your own sin?

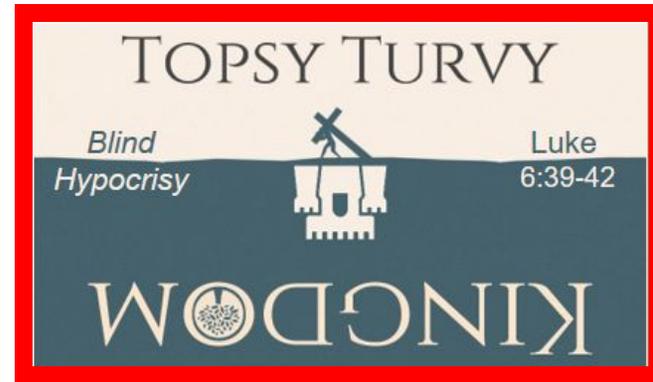
Can you admit the sin that you are presently seeking to overcome by the power of Christ and His good news this morning?

Your likeness to Christ depends first on how good you are at log-hunting in your own life. And then, once you confess your sin – or agree with God that it is wrong - according to **1 John 1:9** you can believe God’s promise that He will forgive and cleanse you from all righteousness by the work of Christ alone.

Jesus is seeking obedience that comes from faith – from hearing and living out the Gospel of God in true humility – recognizing that our salvation and sanctification is all by His grace and mercy – and we are much more like the sinners we despise than Christ who we claim to follow.

Let’s be humble enough to walk in the light with our sin church – repenting of its self-justifying wickedness – as we rest in the resurrection power of Christ and His indwelling Spirit to love others as we have first been loved.

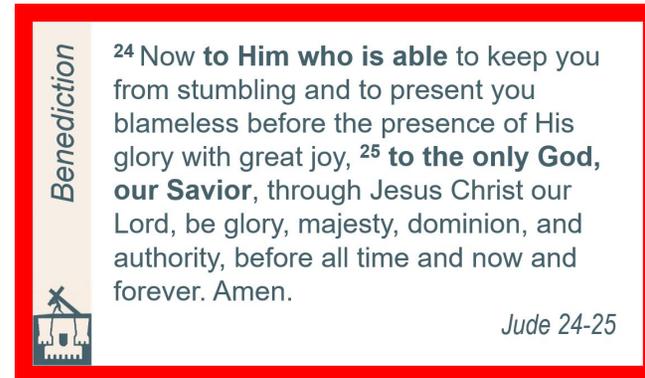
Let’s Pray.



<Behold the Wondrous Mystery>

ANNOUNCEMENT after 2nd Service: If possible, helpers are appreciated to load all the Christmas Shoeboxes – many hands make light work!

Let’s pray our Benediction now as we are dismissed,
Benediction



Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, ...according to the command of

the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— 27 to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ!

Jude 24-25

Recommended Resources on Blind Hypocrisy:

- 1 Samuel 16:7
- Isaiah 29:13
- Matthew 6:2, 5, 16; 7:1-5; 10:24; 15:7-9, 13-14; 22:18; 23:13-33; 24:51
- Luke 12:1, 56; 13:15
- John 13:16; 15:20
- Romans 2:17-24; 12:9
- Galatians 2:13
- 1 Timothy 4:2
- James 3:17
- 1 Peter 2:1

- <https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-hypocrisy.html>
- <http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/be-the-opposite-of-a-hypocrite>
- <http://www.gty.org/resources/sermons/41-61/The-Pathology-of-a-Religious-Hypocrite>
- <https://vimeo.com/69103586> (7 Habits of Highly Hypocritical People)

- *What do you think of me? Why Do I Care?*, Ed Welch
- *Respectable Sins*, Jerry Bridges
- *The Enemy Within*, Kris Lundgaard

Growing Deeper: Life Group Questions

1. Read Luke 6:39. Would you describe yourself as discerning? What helps you grow in discernment to recognize false teaching?
2. Read Luke 6:41-42 and Galatians 2:12-13. When is it right to confront obvious hypocrisy in others? What does God give you to enable you to do this well?
3. Read Matthew 15:7-9. Discuss why is it so easy to drift into hypocrisy? What pressures tempt you towards hypocrisy?
4. Read Matthew 23:13-32. Why is the punishment of hypocrisy so severe? How does hypocrisy damage Christ's church?
5. Read Luke 11:39-44. What is the opposite of hypocrisy?
6. Read Matthew 23:12. How can you practically humble yourself?
7. Read 1 John 1:6-9. What role can other Christians play in helping you avoid the blindness of hypocrisy? How does God's Gospel provide all you need in order to dare to be real?