

LUKE 11:37-54

REVIEW...

- **THE GOSPEL OF LUKE...**
 - The focus of Luke is on the humanity of Jesus – showing Him as the perfect flawless man...
 - Key Verse - **Luke 19:10** - “**The Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost.**”
- **LUKE 10:1-37 - SENDING THE 70 / NOT GOOD ENOUGH - GOOD SAMARITAN...**
- **LUKE 11:1-13 - PRAYER...**
 - One of the Disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray...
 - 1st - Jesus gave the ‘Lord’s prayer’ - as a pattern for how to pray...
 - 2nd - Jesus told them to be persistent in prayer (*friend at midnight*) - Ask / Seek / Knock...
 - 3rd - Jesus to them what to pray for - Heavenly Father would give the Holy Spirit!
- **LUKE 11:14-36 - CHALLENGING JESUS...**
 - Jesus healed a blind & deaf man - amazing miracle that astounded - but some did not believe
 - 1st - The king of the evil spirits...
 - If satan cast out demons - then his kingdom was in civil war...
 - But since Jesus cast out the demon by the finger of God - they were the ones with satan!
 - 2nd - The only sign - as Jonah was 3 days and 3 nights in the belly of the fish...
 - The sign Jesus gave was the crucifixion/resurrection - the one that brought salvation!
 - He warned the people not to ignore His words - instead they should be a light

A GODLY LEADER...

- **1ST - BREAKFAST WITH A PHARISEE... vs. 37-38**
 - While Jesus was speaking - one of the Pharisees requested him to come over for breakfast...
 - The Pharisees were one of the main religious denominations of the Jews...
 - They sat in the ‘Seat of Moses’ - **Matthew 23:2** - enforcing the Law of God...
 - Like saying a congressman represents the Constitution...
 - The Pharisees were the ones who were supposed to represent the Law of God...
 - The word ‘seat’ - *kathedra* – is only used three times in the Bible...
 - The other two times it is used – those who sit in the Temple selling doves...
 - These religious leaders - the Pharisees - had taken the Seat of Moses...
 - And made it the seat of moneymaking – as they profited off of God people!
 - Rather than teaching the people – they took advantage of the people...
 - Too often today we see those who take the role of a spiritual leader...
 - Not to teach and instruct God’s people – but to take from them...
 - A pastor is not a profession – it is not a career – not a job...
 - It is not about collecting a salary – making money – or being famous...
 - It is a calling from God to love and feed His people!
 - When Jesus sat down to eat - He did not wash His hands prior to eating the meal...
 - I can see Jesus smiling as He did this - He knew He was provoking a confrontation!
 - Sure enough the Pharisee marveled at Jesus’ refusal to follow the Jewish tradition!
 - Speaking of the ceremonial dipping of your hands in ‘blessed’ water - in special bowls
 - Jesus responded by giving 6 woes to these religious leaders of Israel...
 - By contrasting the Pharisees & Lawyers – we see a picture of Godly leadership!

- **1ST - CLEAN ON THE OUTSIDE AND ON THE INSIDE... VS. 39-42**

- Woe unto you Pharisees - you only make the outside of the cup and dish clean...
 - The idea is they made themselves look good - on the outside...
 - But on the inside they were full of greed and wickedness...
 - The appearance might have been good – but their motives were selfish/evil!
 - If you had two bowls - one clean on the outside - but full of filth on the inside...
 - The other filthy on the outside - clean on the inside - which would you eat from...
 - No matter how clean on the outside – if its filthy on the inside – you don't use it...
 - Often men focus only on the outside - give the appearance of being religious/good...
 - They carry a bigger Bible – have the fanciest clothes – volunteer for the choir...
 - They have their name written in bulletins – or on plaques in the church...
 - They pray long fancy prayers – for what seems like hours – using big words...
 - Giving the appearance of great godliness – but their lives do not match their words
 - God is not impressed by the outside – the Lord looks at the heart – **I Samuel 16:7**
 - No matter how 'good you look' - if the heart is not right - you are still unclean...
 - In contrast - if your heart is right - no matter how the outside looks - you are clean!
 - When we get saved Jesus doesn't clean the outside first - He takes care of the heart
 - Then in time the outside comes to reflect the new life we have on the inside!
 - How to clean the inside of the dish...
 - Jesus commanded the leaders to give to the poor - then they would be clean...
 - The Pharisees needed a new heart - because their heart was full of evil...
 - Their actions revealed who they were - they took from God's people...
 - But if they gave to the people - rather than take from them...
 - It would show a change of heart - it would show they were clean on the inside...
 - The Pharisees - religious leaders did tithe – 10% – even of their spices...
 - They tithed in obedience to the Law - **Deuteronomy 14:22** - which was good
 - That they tithed from something as insignificant as their garden – even better
 - But they missed the more important matters of the Law - Justice/ Love...
 - If would be like saying I am a good Christian because...
 - I went to church last Sunday and read my Bible – which is a good thing...
 - But I also hate / lie / and steal from my neighbor – BIG problem!
 - Going to church and reading is a good thing – but does not make up for all the sin!

- **2ND - A GODLY LEADER SEEKS THE PRAISE OF GOD... VS. 43**

- Woe unto you Pharisees - love the praises of men...
 - In the Synagogues – there were the special seats that faced the rest of the church...
 - The places where people of importance and power would sit - 'up on the stage'...
 - That is where the Pharisees loved to be – they loved the 'best seats'...
 - Looked for greetings in the marketplace...
 - The Pharisees loved to hear their own name – love to be recognized...
 - They loved to be seen by men - they loved the praises of men...
 - **John 12:43** – “For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.”
 - The word “love” in **John 12** – is the word *agape* – perfect love
 - It should not matter if men know our names – does the Lord know our name...
 - What good is man's recognition – if God says - 'I never knew you'...

- The leaders had so much love for men's praises – they cared nothing for God's!
 - **Galatians 1:10** - "If I were trying to please people, I would not be Christ's servant."
 - A godly leader does not seek the praises of men – the acceptance of men...
 - If a leader is seeking to please men – he is listening to men and not to God...
 - He becomes a leader who is tossed about by the whims of men – no direction...
 - He becomes the blind leading the blind – both fall into the ditch! - **Matthew 15:4**
 - The Godly leader listens to the Lord – and is directed in his decisions by the Lord
- **3RD - A GODLY LEADER SETS A GOOD EXAMPLE... VS. 44**
 - Woe unto you Pharisees - like graves that cannot be seen...
 - **Numbers 19:16** - if you touched a grave - even unknowingly - unclean for 7 days...
 - For that reason all graves were to be white washed - so they could be clearly seen...
 - The Pharisees were like unmarked graves - defiling people without them knowing...
 - They defiled them by what they taught them - by the example they set...
 - They were supposed to lead God's people - but they were leading them the wrong way!
 - Whether we know it or not we are setting an example for those around us...
 - **I Corinthians 11:1** - "Follow my example, just as I follow Christ's."
 - Dad's – Mom's – can we say that to our children - are we leading them to Jesus...
 - We are leading them somewhere – what is the example we are giving...
- **4TH - A GODLY LEADER DOES NOT TELL OTHERS WHAT TO DO... VS. 45-46**
 - One of the Lawyers who was also at the breakfast answered...
 - He argued Jesus' words against the Pharisees - also attacked the Lawyers...
 - This is not a lawyer in the sense we think of today - he studied the Law of God...
 - Lawyers were the Bible scholars of their day - they were well educated in the Word...
 - Many of the Lawyers were also Pharisees - so they stood on common ground...
 - Jesus was more than willing to share the rebuke - there was plenty to go around...
 - When I was a kid - I was grounded (*likely for a good reason*) and could not go out...
 - But I snuck out anyways - then stole some money to buy some ice cream...
 - I thought I could get out of trouble / have ice cream - instead I got in a LOT more trouble!
 - The lawyer would have been wiser to say nothing - instead Jesus turned his attention...
 - Woe unto you - Lawyers who bind heavy burdens – hard to bear – and lay them on others...
 - The Scribes and Pharisees were quick to make demands of others...
 - You were required to keep all their additional rules and regulations...
 - Example – The Law commanded you were not to work on the Sabbath day...
 - The Lawyers interpreted the Law in a way that made the command to rest – a burden!
 - They clarified the 39 different categories that they constituted as work...
 - Going so far as to say you could not tie your shoes / or comb your hair!
 - The Sabbath became a hardship that took all week to prepare for!
 - Yet somehow they were exempt from their own rules!
 - They were not willing to even lift a finger...
 - A Godly leader should not be telling others what to do – but shows them...
 - Godly leader does not tell you to serve – he serves as an example...
 - A Godly leader does not tell you to give – he gives as an example - a Godly example!
 - Do we tell others how to follow Jesus – or do we show them by example...

- **5TH - A GODLY LEADER IS NOT AFRAID TO TELL THE TRUTH... VS. 47-51**

- Woe unto you Lawyers - build the tombs of the prophets...
 - The same prophets whom their forefathers had murdered...
 - Attempting to show their respect for the Prophets of God...
 - Saying if they'd been there – wouldn't have taken part in the murder of the prophets...
 - But they bear witnesses that they were indeed the sons of murderers...
 - They rejected the teachings of the prophets - just as their fathers had done...
 - And just as their fathers had killed the prophets to silence God's Word...
 - Rather than listen and obey - they would shortly kill Jesus - the Word of God!
 - I have had times when someone got upset cause they thought I was teaching about them
 - In truth I was just teaching the Word - it was God's Word that was convicting them...
 - When the Word convicts us - we often try and blame/silence the messenger...
 - But a godly leader does not back down from sharing the truth - in love...
 - Because he knows it is God's Word that can save/transform a life!
 - Therefore on them came the blood of all the prophets...
 - God had sent prophets/apostles – men who called Israel to repent - come back to God...
 - But instead they persecuted them - others they killed...
 - But the Lawyers would face the greatest condemnation of all...
 - On them would come all the blood from Abel (1st martyr) to Zechariah (last martyr)...
 - Because they would be the ones who would kill Jesus Christ!

- **6TH - A GODLY LEADER POINT OTHERS TO JESUS... VS. 52-54**

- Woe unto you Lawyers - keep others out of heaven...
 - It was the responsibility of the religious leaders to teach men how to get to Heaven...
 - They were to instruct the people about God – through teaching His Word
 - Instead they kept people from knowing about God...
 - When men came to them to hear about God – learn how to get to heaven...
 - They were instead taught as law the traditions of men...
 - **Matthew 15:9** – “Their worship is fake... replace God's commands with their own...”
 - The Lawyers had the keys to heaven (*the Word*) – but not only did they not go in...
 - In effect they hid the keys (*the Word*) to keep others from going to Heaven as well!
 - The religious leaders thought they were the answer - they were Lawyers/Pharisees...
 - Men love to be called – Pastor/Father/Minister/Doctor/Most Holy/Reverend
 - Titles only separate – they only make one person seem higher and another lower
 - We love titles because it makes us feel like we are better than others...
 - When in truth – we are all in the same boat – we are all sinners saved by Grace!
 - Godly leaders do not point men to themselves – they point them to Jesus...
 - We do not have the answer – we can only point to the one who does!
- Breakfast was over...
 - Like stepping into a red ant mound - Jesus had stirred up the Pharisees and Lawyers...
 - They began to assault Jesus with a barrage of questions - trying to trip Him up...
 - Looking for something He might say the could use against Him - catch Him in His words...
 - They missed the point - they did not get it - Jesus was not the problem - they were!
 - Don't miss the point - be a godly leader - Be clean on the inside / Seek the praises of God...
 - Set a good example for others / Tell the truth in Love / Point other to Jesus...
 - Be great leaders who can lead our family – friends – to Jesus Christ!