

Reflection Questions: Luke 11:37-44

For the message, “The Inside Out Revolution of Jesus” given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on April 11, 2021

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Luke 11:37-44

37 While Jesus was speaking, a Pharisee asked him to dine with him, so he went in and reclined at table. **38** The Pharisee was astonished to see that he did not first wash before dinner. **39** And the Lord said to him, “Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. **40** You fools! Did not he who made the outside make the inside also? **41** But give as alms those things that are within, and behold, everything is clean for you. **42** “But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and every herb, and neglect justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. **43** Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the best seat in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces. **44** Woe to you! For you are like unmarked graves, and people walk over them without knowing it.”

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- There was no requirement in the Old Testament that people wash their hands before they ate a meal. Yet the Pharisees added this requirement to demonstrate how pure they were. In other words, their ritual hand washing was a way, as one commentator said, “to remove the defilement contracted by their contact with a sinful world” (Morris). And from this text we can see that Jesus didn't play this game. In your own words, what made Jesus so frustrated with the Pharisees?
- In the message, the pastor quoted Brené Brown, “We spend too much precious time and energy managing perception and creating carefully edited versions of ourselves to show to the world.”
 - How do you see this at work in the Pharisees?
 - How do you see this at work in your own life as well?
- Jesus rebukes the Pharisees for their tithing—not that tithing was wrong, but that it was insufficient. What do you see in this passage that Jesus believes is essential that they were neglecting? What might this look like in our lives today?

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- Jesus is trying to stress how important the internal is—what's inside of us. In fact, Jesus stresses that one can indeed be externally religious as the Pharisees were, and yet be internally corrupt — “full of greed and lawlessness.” In what ways do communities of faith sometimes exacerbate this problem?
- Reflect on this quote from Paul Tripp: “...personal insight is a product of community. I need you in order to really see and know myself. Otherwise, I will listen to my own arguments, believe my own lies, and buy into my own delusions. My self-perception is as accurate as a carnival mirror. If I am going to see myself clearly, I need you to hold the mirror of God's word in front of me.”
 - What do you like and not like about what Tripp is saying?
 - How can we help one another in really knowing ourselves? What would need to be in place to make a community of faith safe for this kind of friendship? What are the obstacles?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- As you think about how our city views Christians, do you think they see us more like Jesus (who cares about “the inside”), or the Pharisees who only care about appearances? And why is this important?
- Do you think that more open do you think our city would be to the Good News we have to proclaim if they saw Christians more as people of integrity and less as people of hypocrisy? Why or why not?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

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