



# WHEN WE PRAY

**Luke 11:37-12:3**

**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.” **45** One of the lawyers answered him, “Teacher, in saying these things you insult us also.” **46** And he said, “Woe to you lawyers also! For you load people with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers. **47** Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets whom your fathers killed. **48** So you are witnesses and you consent to the deeds of your fathers, for they killed them, and you build their tombs. **49** Therefore also the Wisdom of God said, ‘I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute,’ **50** so that the blood of all the prophets, shed from the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation, **51** from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, it will be required of this generation. **52** Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter yourselves, and you hindered those who were entering.” **53** As he went away from there, the scribes and the Pharisees began to press him hard and to provoke him to speak about many things, **54** lying in wait for him, to catch him in something he might say. **12** In the meantime, when so many thousands of the people had gathered together that they were trampling one another, he began to say to his disciples first, “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. **2** Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed or hidden that will not be known. **3** Therefore whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed on the housetops.

## Getting Started

- Do you have a regular habit of sharing meals with people outside of your family?
- What are some "topics" that you try and avoid in dinner conversations?
- Who are the three primary groups of people Jesus had meals with?
- Why do you think Jesus chose to have these conversations over a meal?

## Digging Deeper

The Pharisees, often depicted as antagonists in the gospels, were actually committed to strict adherence to the Mosaic Law, believing this would hurry the Messiah's arrival. They aimed to guide Israel back to righteous living amidst widespread corruption. Despite Jesus' harsh criticisms, their intentions were sometimes noble and devoted, and they were highly respected by the people.

The Lawyers, or Scribes, were experts in Mosaic Law, not attorneys as we understand today. They collaborated closely with the Pharisees and were considered the conservative faction of the time. Like the Pharisees, they were also highly esteemed by the public.

### **Luke 11:38 The Pharisee was astonished to see that he did not first wash before dinner.**

- How does this verse describe the Pharisees' reaction to Jesus not washing before dinner?
- Why was Jesus so harsh in his response to the Pharisee?
- How does the washing ritual practiced by the Pharisees highlight the issue of external versus internal purity?
- In what ways do we tend to impose our personal convictions on others?

Kyle mentioned in his sermon that all the external requirements did not match their internal reality. The goal is to examine our own hearts. Are we symptomatic? Do we have anything in common with the Pharisees, and the teachers of the law?

### **Luke 11:39-40**

**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?"**

- What type of hypocrisy is Jesus pointing out in this verse?
- What is the significance of Jesus' criticism of the Pharisees for cleansing the outside of the cup but not the inside?
- How can we ensure our inner life matches our outward expressions of faith?

### **Read Matthew 23:27**

**“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness.**

- In what ways does the metaphor of “whitewashed tombs” illustrate the contrast between the external appearance and internal reality of the scribes and Pharisees?
- How does Kyle’s analogy of “spraying perfume on a corpse” relate to the concept of external righteousness without internal change?

### **So, What, Now What?**

#### **Luke 11:41**

**41 But give as alms those things that are within, and behold, everything is clean for you.**

- What are alms and why is Jesus using them as a remedy for heart sickness?
- How does Jesus’ instruction to “give alms those things within” relate to internal and external cleanliness?
- How does cleaning the inside of the cup lead to the outside also being clean?
- How can repentance lead to internal heart health?
- What role does the Holy Spirit play in helping us stay clean on the inside?