

# THE GOSPEL OF LUKE



*glimpses  
of glory*

MESSAGE: CHARLIE MENG

MUSIC: SHAWN HOELSCH

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## The Hypocrisy of the Religious Leaders Luke 11:37-54

**“Righteous” appearances cannot compensate for internal spiritual deficiencies. (vv. 37-41)**

***Luke 11:37** 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.*

**Jesus condemns the religious leaders for their hypocrisy and self-righteousness. (vv. 42-52)**

1. Jesus condemns the Pharisees for...

- a. ...prioritizing outward ceremony over genuine love.

***Luke 11:42** “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.*

- b. ...valuing their own honor instead of being zealous for God's.

***Luke 11:43** Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the best seat in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces.*

- c. ...being an influence of uncleanness instead of godliness.

***Luke 11:44** Woe to you! For you are like unmarked graves, and people walk over them without knowing it.”*

2. Jesus condemns the lawyers for...

- a. ...lovelessly encumbering people with burdensome regulations.

***Luke 11:45** 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.*

b. ...violent rebellion against God's message.

**Luke 11:47** 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.

c. ...concealing God's Son and his Kingdom.

**Luke 11:52** 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."

**Jesus's condemnation stirs up the religious leader's malicious opposition. (vv. 53-54)**

**Luke 11:53** 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.

**Reflection/Discussion**

1. It's easy to fall into a pattern of external performance as a substitute for spiritual renewal. Have you, or are you now, struggling with that? How does Jesus's life and message free you from mere performance?
2. Compare the woes Jesus pronounces in Luke 11:42-52 with the blessings found in Matthew 5:3-12. How can you further foster a life that is "blessed"?
3. Re-read Luke 11:52. If you have trusted Jesus and are growing in the knowledge of him (2 Peter 3:18), the overflow is to hold out your hope to others. How can you share this key of knowledge to the people you have influence with this week?

**SONGS**

"FOUND IN YOU"

"GOD IS FOR US"

"BUILD MY LIFE"

"THE CROSS HAS THE FINAL WORD"

Altamont Music Pastor: Shawn Hoelsch (shawn@vbc.online)

Behold Podcast: [vbc.online/behold](http://vbc.online/behold)

**BUDGET**

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$ 28,713.63  
WEEKLY NEED: \$ 36,985.00

Y-T-D GIVING: \$1,257,929.10  
Y-T-D GENERAL NEED: \$1,405,430.00

ALTAMONT CAMPUS EXPANSION FUND:  
(Last Entry 09/19) \$ 92,884.74

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