**Religious, Or Christ Follower?**

Luke 11:37-54

**Luke 11:37 (ESV)**While Jesus was speaking, a Pharisee asked Him to dine with him, so He went in and reclined at table.

**Luke 11:38 (ESV)**The Pharisee was astonished to see that He did not first wash before dinner.

**Luke 11:39 (ESV)**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.

**Luke 11:40 (ESV)**You fools! Did not He who made the outside make the inside also?

**Luke 11:41 (ESV)**But give as alms those things that are within, and behold, everything is clean for you.

**Following Jesus is greater than being religious.**

1. **Religion: Outward Appearance. *Christ: Inner Change.***

**Luke 11:39 (ESV)**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.”

**1 Samuel 16:7 (ESV)**For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.

1. **Religion: Guilt and Obligation. *Christ: Giving from Love.***

**Luke 11:42 (ESV)**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.

***Abraham began the tithe.***

**Genesis 14:18 (ESV)**And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.)

**Genesis 14:19 (ESV)**And he blessed him and said, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;

**Genesis 14:20 (ESV)**and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!” And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

***Jacob and the patriarchs continued the tithe.***

**Genesis 28:20 (ESV)**Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear,

**Genesis 28:21 (ESV)**so that I come again to my father’s house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God,

**Genesis 28:22 (ESV)**and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God’s house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you.”

***The Law of Moses ordered the tithe.***

**Leviticus 27:30 (ESV)**Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the Lord’s; it is holy to the Lord.

**Leviticus 27:31 (ESV)**If a man wishes to redeem some of his tithe, he shall add a fifth to it.

**Leviticus 27:32 (ESV)**And every tithe of herds and flocks, every tenth animal of all that pass under the herdsman’s staff, shall be holy to the Lord.

***The prophets clarified the tithe.***

**Malachi 3:8 (ESV)**Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed You?’ In your tithes and contributions.

**Malachi 3:9 (ESV)**You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you.

**Malachi 3:10 (ESV)**Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. And thereby put Me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

***Jesus applauded the tithe.***

**Luke 11:42 (ESV)**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.

***Generosity, motivated by love, surpasses the tithe.***

**2 Corinthians 9:6 (ESV)**The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

**2 Corinthians 9:7 (ESV)**Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

**1 John 3:17 (ESV)**But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him?

1. **Religion: Promotes Pride. *Christ: Tears Pride Down.***

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

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

**Luke 11:45 (ESV)**One of the lawyers answered Him, “Teacher, in saying these things you insult us also.”

**Luke 11:46 (ESV)**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.”

1. **Religion: Craves Hearing What It Agrees With. *Christ: Confronts with Truth.***

**Luke 11:47 (ESV)**Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets whom your fathers killed.

**Luke 11:48 (ESV)**So you are witnesses and you consent to the deeds of your fathers, for they killed them, and you build their tombs.

**Luke 11:49 (ESV)**Therefore also the Wisdom of God said, ‘I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute,’

**Luke 11:50 (ESV)**so that the blood of all the prophets, shed from the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation,

**Luke 11:51 (ESV)**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.

**Luke 11:52 (ESV)**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.”

**2 Timothy 4:3 (ESV)**For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions.

1. **Religion: Fights against Christ. *Christ: Calls for Surrender.***

**Luke 11:53 (ESV)**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,

**Luke 11:54 (ESV)**lying in wait for Him, to catch Him in something He might say.