

## “ROUND 3: STOP THE VIRTUE SIGNALING”

Luke 11:37-53

Series: “Jesus V. The Pharisees”

Pastor Rusty Russell

New Day Christian Church, Port Charlotte, FL

January 24, 2021

### **INTRODUCTION:**

As we continue our study of the life of Christ this winter, we’re in a four-part series, “Jesus v. the Pharisees,” studying four passages of Scripture where Jesus clashes with the religious leaders. Today is Round 3.

The Pharisees of Jesus’ day were training people in a false righteousness. Watch in this passage how Jesus breaks a rule – on purpose – to teach a lesson about true righteousness and help us accurately differentiate between right and wrong.

This is so important in today’s culture where modern-day Pharisees – holding to the religions of socialism and secular humanism – are constantly preaching to us about following their rules. We must learn how to determine true righteousness.

### **SCRIPTURE**

***[Luk 11:37-54 NIV] 37 When Jesus had finished speaking, a Pharisee invited him to eat with him; so he went in and reclined at the table. 38 But the Pharisee was surprised when he noticed that Jesus did not first wash before the meal.***

(Explain hand washing rules of the day...)

***39 Then the Lord said to him, "Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. 40 You foolish people! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also? 41 But now as for what is inside***

***you--be generous to the poor, and everything will be clean for you.***

(That sentence in V. 41 is tough to translate into English.  
Literally: "Give alms from inside, then everything will be clean.")

***42 "Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.***

***43 "Woe to you Pharisees, because you love the most important seats in the synagogues and respectful greetings in the marketplaces.***

***44 "Woe to you, because you are like unmarked graves, which people walk over without knowing it."***

***45 One of the experts in the law answered him, "Teacher, when you say these things, you insult us also."***

***46 Jesus replied, "And you experts in the law, woe to you, because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them.***

***47 "Woe to you, because you build tombs for the prophets, and it was your ancestors who killed them. 48 So you testify that you approve of what your ancestors did; they killed the prophets, and you build their tombs. 49 Because of this, God in his wisdom said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and others they will persecute.' 50 Therefore this generation will be held responsible for the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the beginning of the world, 51 from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, this generation will be held responsible for it all.***

**52 "Woe to you experts in the law, because you have taken away the key to knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you have hindered those who were entering."**

**53 When Jesus went outside, the Pharisees and the teachers of the law began to oppose him fiercely and to besiege him with questions, 54 waiting to catch him in something he might say.**

## **EXPLANATION**

### **A. Jesus judges the Pharisees**

- 1) You virtue signal.
- 2) You love the limelight.
- 3) You make people worse.

### **B. Jesus judges the lawmakers**

- 1) You burden people with unnecessary rules.
- 2) You reject the prophets of God.
- 3) You are blocking the pathway to truth.

## **APPLICATION**

It's so important that we understand what true righteousness is. It's not following all the rules. It's what's in your heart. That doesn't mean "outcomes" don't matter. Jesus once said:

[Mat 15:11, 17-20 NIV] 11 What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them." ... 17 "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? 18 But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. 19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts-  
-murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony,

slander. 20 These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them."

Be like Jesus not like the Pharisees.

- 1) Focus on your inner character not outer appearance.
- 2) Put people ahead of rules.

**CONCLUSION:**

When we focus on the heart we realize, we're not good people. But that's where the Gospel comes in! There was only one who was truly clean on the inside...

Put him first in your heart...