

When Jesus Does the Dishes

Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 11:37-54



Big Idea

We all deal with duplicity and dis-integration. We often try to present something on the outside that is not true of us on the inside. Sadly, religion is often used for such a thing. Jesus is calling us away from the sham. He is ready to cover and restore us if we'd only be honest with Him.

(1) The Diagnosis

Jesus points out the duplicity, the dis-integration, the breakdown between their external presentation and internal reality. And He does so by giving two somewhat haunting pictures (see vv. 39, 44).

(2) The Symptoms

Symptom #1: You Major in the Minors And Minor in the Majors (v. 42)—If you look back at the legislation in the OT concerning the tithe, you see that with it God was intending to cultivate in His people a grateful and generous heart. It was intended to remind them of His provision and faithfulness to them. It was supposed to be a token of their own appreciation, a gesture of their gratitude and love for God and all He has done. This ten percent was supposed to set the tone for the way you handled the other ninety percent. But instead, the opposite has been occurring with these men. It became a way of drawing lines: “I’ll give You Your tenth, right up to the line, but I will give You no more.”

Symptom #2: You Savor the Show (v. 43)—Far too often men use their service of God as an underhanded attempt to unseat Him. While they praise Him with their lips they crave praise for themselves in their hearts.

Symptom #3: You’d Rather Kill than Confess (vv. 47-51)—When your heart is open to God, you’ll be open to correction, to being wrong. Your whole identity isn’t staked on your image, your performance, your righteousness—it’s on God and the acceptance and righteousness you have in Christ. So you can hear another person out without getting all worked up. Self-righteous people, for all of their apparent confidence and strength, are the most insecure people on the planet. Why? Because they are unrelentingly committed to defending and upholding something that they know deep down in their hearts is not true.

(3) The Cure

The Pharisees and lawyers are concerned about what my sin might do to them, so they keep a safe distance. But Jesus is concerned about what my sin will do to me, so He moves towards, comes in close, rolls up His sleeves, gets dirty, goes to the cross, washes me up, and makes me whole again!

Reflection Questions



- When’s the last time you had a meal with an unbeliever—just to move towards them, ask a lot of questions, hear more of their story, and identify ways you can pray for them, love them, and bring good news to them in Jesus?! Are you walking as an *everyday missionary*?
- How do you feel when your labor goes unnoticed by others? Is it enough to know that God sees every cup of water you give in Jesus’ name and will reward you for it? Or must other people see and praise you for it as well? Are you a different person when you know others are watching? Is there a serious distinction between who you are in public and who you are in private? When people stop patting you on the back, do you stop seeing a reason to serve or obey God?
- How do you respond when someone points out sin in your life? Do you listen, invite discussion, pray, and repent where appropriate? Or do you prepare for war?