

Luke 16:14-18. Christ Rebukes the Pharisees Who Derided Him.

by Favell Lee Mortimer

The Pharisees' hatred of reproof and their false profession of religion are contrasted with the importance of being made aware of our sins and the consequences of having an unconverted heart.

Scripture: Psalm 51:10, Proverbs 15:10, Jeremiah 17:9, Malachi 2:14, Matthew 23:27

Topics: "Hypocrisy Exposed", "Heart Transformation"

Description

Favell Lee Mortimer delivers a powerful sermon on the Pharisees' aversion to reproof, exposing their hypocrisy in professing love for God while hating His law and committing grave sins. Mortimer emphasizes the importance of allowing the truth to penetrate our hearts, even when it is uncomfortable, as it is better to confront our sins now than face God's judgment later. The sermon highlights the significance of having a genuine, transformed heart washed in the blood of Christ, rather than relying on outward appearances or false professions of religion to deceive others and God.

Transcript

The Pharisees hated reproof. When they found the Lord's discourses applied to their own case they were angry. Conscious that they were covetous, they could not bear to hear covetousness spoken against. It is natural to the human heart to shrink from the touch of truth. How often ministers find that their hearers have been offended by the most searching parts of their sermons! Let us inquire whether we hate to hear our faults reproofed. No doubt it is painful to be told of our sins. But is it not better to be made acquainted with them now, than to wait until we stand before the face of God?

The kindest friends we have are those who take us apart to say, "Are you acting right in this point, or in that particular?" The most faithful ministers are those who will not let sinners slumber on in their sins, until the fire of eternal wrath devour them.

But none are so angry at reproof as those who make a false profession of religion. The Pharisees were only anxious that men should think highly of their characters. As they knew that men could not see into their hearts, they did not care in what state they remained. If a monarch were going to pass through a town, the inhabitants would probably cleanse and adorn the outside of their houses--but as they would know he could not see through the walls, they would not think it necessary to make the inside beautiful.

But if the monarch were to announce that he should enter the house of one of the citizens, then what care would be used to render it fit for his reception! The King of kings searches every heart. A fair outside is not sufficient--God knows our hearts. A heart, unwashed in the blood of Christ, and unrenewed by his Holy Spirit, is an abomination in his sight. It may be highly esteemed by men, and called a tender heart, a kind, warm, and good heart--but it is pronounced by God to be a deceitful and desperately wicked heart. With such a heart none can enter his kingdom. The Pharisees had unconverted hearts. They professed to love God--but in reality they hated Him. How did they show they hated Him? By hating his law. They did not keep his holy commandments.

Christ reminded them of one great sin, which they frequently committed. They broke the seventh commandment by putting away their wives in order to marry others. This sin had been rebuked by the prophet Malachi four hundred years before. He had said, "The Lord has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously; and yet she is your companion and the wife of your covenant." Yet these Jews in Malachi's time had made a great profession of religion. At the very time they were treating their wives with cruelty, they were offering sacrifices to God at his altar. But did he accept these sacrifices? No, he abhorred them.

The injured wives had poured out their tears before the altar, where their treacherous husbands presented their offerings--God saw those tears with compassion, and rejected those offerings with indignation. Let us never imagine that God will accept any of our services, while we are ill-treating any of his creatures. If, when we go and kneel before God to say our prayers, any person is pouring out tears before his footstool on account of our ill-treatment, can we expect our prayers to be heard? God has declared in his word that He will hear the cry of the oppressed, and that He will punish the oppressors--"You shall not afflict any widow, or fatherless child.

If you afflict them in any wise, and they cry at all unto me, I will surely hear their cry--and my wrath shall wax hot, and I will kill you with the sword; and your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless."

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/favell-lee-mortimer/luke-1614-18-christ-rebukes-the-pharisees-who-derided-him/>

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