

# Luke 9:37-44. Christ Exposes the Hypocrisy of the Scribes and Pharisees.

by Favell Lee Mortimer

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*The sermon exposes the hypocrisy of the Pharisees, who prioritize human praise over God's, and highlights the importance of seeking God's praise and true happiness through humility.*

**Scripture:** Matthew 23:27

**Topics:** "Hypocrisy Exposed", "Humility Before God"

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## Description

Favell Lee Mortimer preaches about the Pharisees' desire for human honor over God's praise, highlighting their outward display of religious acts while neglecting secret duties and true love for God. He compares them to cups clean on the outside but full of corruption inside, and graves covered with grass but containing dead men's bones. Mortimer emphasizes the importance of seeking God's approval rather than the admiration of men, as true happiness and worthiness come from humility and recognizing our unworthiness before God.

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## Transcript

We never hear of the Savior refusing to visit those who besought his company. Yet no scene could have been more trying to his feelings than a Pharisee's house. The society of publicans and sinners was less revolting to Him than that of proud self-righteous Pharisees.

One of his first actions gave offence to his host. Knowing that the Pharisees imagined that washing their hands before dinner rendered them holy, He purposely neglected to observe this custom. The ruling desire of the Pharisees was the praise of men. No person can desire earnestly both the praise of men and the praise of God; for no man can serve two masters. Just in proportion as we seek honor from men, we shall be indifferent to honor from God. The reward the Pharisees sought was, a high place in the world's esteem. They loved the uppermost seats in the synagogue; (for the most learned and respected among the Jews were permitted to read the law on the Sabbath-days in their sacred assemblies.) When they entered the marketplace, the Pharisees were gratified at receiving tokens of veneration from the multitude; they were constantly seeking the gratification of their pride; and whether in the house of God, or in the public throng, they were thirsting for human honor.

What were the means they pursued in order to obtain it? They diligently observed all the forms of religion--they fasted and made long prayers, and even insisted on giving a tenth of the smallest herbs to

the priests. But they neglected all secret duties. They were so much occupied in pleasing men, that they never thought about pleasing God. Secret prayers, secret charities, secret acts of justice, secret feelings of love to God--of all these they knew nothing.

To what did the Lord compare these vain-glorious men? To cups and covered dishes, that looked bright outside, but were full of corruption within--and to graves that were grown over with grass, but that contained dead men's bones.

Are not each of us conscious that we have, by nature, a strong desire for the praise of men, and no desire for the praise of God? This is one of the effects of the Fall. Angels are not coveting the admiration of their companions in bliss; their eyes are fixed upon their Father's face, and in His smile they live and rejoice.

What confusion it would introduce into heaven were a creature to enter there who wishes to be admired! He would find, that though all the blessed inhabitants love one another, that they admire God alone, and are perpetually engaged in singing, "Blessing, and glory, and honor, and power be unto Him that sits upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, forever and ever." (Rev. 5:13.) How dejected a Pharisee would feel in such a scene!

Does our happiness depend upon our being noticed and honored? If it do, we are not fit for heaven. Job said, "Behold, I am vile." Isaiah said, "I am a man of unclean lips." Abraham said, he was but dust and ashes; David, that he was shaped in iniquity; and Paul, that he was the chief of sinners. Yet these were some of the brightest saints who ever lived upon earth. Do we feel, as they did, unworthy of favor and honor? The wicked boast, "I am not polluted; I am innocent." (Jer. 2:23, 35.) Some even dare to say to their fellow-sinners, "Stand by yourself, for I am holier than you." (Is. 65:5.) What does God say of such proud sinners? "They are a smoke in my nose." But of a penitent, washed in the blood of Christ, and clothed in his righteousness, He speaks thus--"His beauty shall be as the olive-tree, and his smell as Lebanon." (Hos. 14:6.)

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Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/favell-lee-mortimer/luke-937-44-christ-exposes-the-hypocrisy-of-the-scribes-and-pharisees/>

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