

# I Am About to Desecrate My Sanctuary

by Thomas Brooks

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*The sermon warns against the desecration of the sanctuary through hypocrisy and carnality, emphasizing the need for true devotion and a heart that puts God's words into practice.*

**Scripture:** Ezekiel 24:21, Ezekiel 33:31

**Topics:** "Hypocrisy", "True Devotion"

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## Description

Thomas Brooks emphasizes the danger of hypocrisy within the church, warning that many engage in religious activities while their hearts remain distant from God. He highlights that mere participation in church ordinances does not equate to true devotion, as even the worst sinners can perform these acts. Brooks draws a parallel between hypocrites and the nightingale, suggesting that their actions are often motivated by the desire for human approval rather than genuine faith. He cites Ezekiel to illustrate that while people may outwardly express devotion, their hearts are often focused on selfish gain, leading to a disconnect between their words and actions.

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## Transcript

"This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I am about to desecrate My sanctuary--the stronghold in which you take pride, the delight of your eyes, the object of your affection." Ezekiel 24:21

Many are much in and for church ordinances and activities, whose hearts are very carnal, and whose lives are very vain.

It is nothing to be much in those religious duties and performances wherein the worst of sinners may go beyond the best of saints. The most refined hypocrites labor only to be seen by others in their praying, fasting, talking,

hearing, giving, etc. Let them have but man's eye to see them, and man's ear to hear them, and man's tongue to commend them, and man's hand to reward them--and they will sit down and bless themselves.

They say of the nightingale, that when she is solitary in the woods, she is careless of her melody. But when she perceives that she has any auditors, or is near houses, then she composes herself more harmoniously and elegantly.

Truly, this is the frame and temper of the best of hypocrites.

"My people come to you, as they usually do, and sit before you to listen to your words, but they do not put them into practice! With their mouths they express devotion, but their hearts are greedy for unjust gain. Indeed, to them you are nothing more than one who sings love songs with a beautiful voice and plays an instrument well, for they hear your words but do not put them into practice."

Ezekiel 33:31-32.

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Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/thomas-brooks/i-am-about-to-desecrate-my-sanctuary/>

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