

LESSON 7

IT'S WHAT'S INSIDE THAT COUNTS

LUKE 11:14—13:17



1 Finish these sentences:

A hypocritical peace activist is one who _____

A hypocritical environmentalist is one who _____

A hypocritical police officer is one who _____

A hypocritical aerobics instructor is one who _____

A hypocritical scientist is one who _____

A hypocritical doctor is one who _____

A hypocritical religious leader is one who _____



Read Luke 11:14—13:17 and the following notes:

☐ 11:37–39 ☐ 11:41 ☐ 11:42–52 ☐ 11:44 ☐ 11:46 ☐ 11:52 ☐ 12:1, 2

☐ 12:8, 9 ☐ 13:10–17 ☐ 13:15, 16

2 Who were the Pharisees?

3 List some ways the Pharisees demonstrated hypocrisy (11:37–52):

4 What did Jesus say about hypocrisy (11:14—12:3; 13:10–17)?

Jesus had harsh words for the Pharisees and experts in religious law. They accused him of being allied with Satan. He condemned them for their blatant hypocrisy. They accosted him for working on the Sabbath. He criticized them for caring more about their traditions than about obeying God. As a result, “the Pharisees and teachers of religious law . . . grilled him with many hostile questions” (11:53). The Pharisees and law experts were hypocrites because they claimed to be holy but were filled with sin. They went through religious motions but had no spiritual depth. They pretended to be devoted to God but were only concerned about themselves. In short, they focused on outward appearances and not on the inner condition of their heart. Jesus warned us to beware of hypocrites and hypocrisy in our own life.



5 What does it mean to focus on the inner condition of your heart?

6 What is so bad about religious hypocrisy?

7 What are some examples of religious hypocrisy today?

8 What might a Christian hypocrite look like?



9 Why is it easy to say one thing and live the opposite?

10 How can a Christian avoid being hypocritical?

11 What are some of the hindrances to living what you profess to believe?

12 How can you focus on the inner condition of your heart over outward appearances?



13 What areas of your life do you need to make more consistent with your Christian faith?

14 How will you know when you've made progress?

A How did Jesus answer the charge that he was in league with Satan (11:14–23)?

B What is the danger for a person who makes a dramatic change in lifestyle (11:24–26)?

C How was Jonah a sign for the nation of Israel (11:29–32)? What lessons can we learn from God's treatment of Nineveh and other nations in the past?

D How does what you see and focus on affect your thoughts and motives (11:33–36)? What do a person's eyes reveal about him/her?

E How much does God know about you (12:6, 7)? How can God's love and care for you free you from fear?

F In what situations do you find it difficult to admit that you're a Christian (12:8–12)? What can you do to become more bold in your witness for Christ?

G How do people store up things for themselves (12:13–21)? What does God say about greed? What can you do to "have a rich relationship with God"?

H What do people worry about most (12:22–34)? How does worry hurt us? What is God's antidote for worry?

I Why should believers be well prepared and ready for Christ's return (12:35–48)? How should they live to be ready? What changes can you make so that you will be ready for Christ's return?

J How does (or can) faith in Christ bring division among people (12:49–53)? How should you respond when someone you love strongly opposes your faith?

K What kind of fruit is God looking for Christians to bear (13:6–9)? How can you be more productive for God?

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