

Matthew 23:25-26

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!
For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish,
but the inside they are full of extortion and self-
indulgence. Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the
inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of
them may be clean also.”

This scripture was one of the first the Lord led me to when I was a babe in Christ. I used to be puzzled by the fact that people spent a great deal of time in church, but they lived their lives as if they did not know the Lord at all.

The Pharisees were members of an ancient Jewish sect, distinguished by strict observance of the law. Today, they are known as self-righteous people. The Pharisees made it a point to look good on the outside in order to appear holy, but their character did not reflect that on the inside. Jesus referred to them as blind. Often, people are blinded to their own sin and behavior. Jesus said it best in scripture when He described their persona as dirty dishes.

There are no secrets from God. He knows our thoughts and heart. Jesus knew about the sin in their heart. He said in **(Matthew 12:34)** “Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.” Jesus knew and still knows today that it is only a matter of time before the inside of your cup is reflected on the outside.

Brothers and Sisters, I challenge you today to exam your heart as David did in **(Psalm 139: 23-24)**.

“Search me, O God, and know my heart;
Try me, and know my anxieties;
And see if there is any wicked way in me,
And lead me in the way everlasting.”

Make it a point to allow Jesus to come into your heart and the Holy Spirit to come in and clean you up. Actively pursue a life of righteousness and pray daily for clean hands and a pure heart because God looks at the heart. There are no secrets from Him.

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