

Matthew 23:23-28

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you ***hypocrites***! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.

You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.

Matthew 23:23-28

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you ***hypocrites***! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.

Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

Matthew 23:23-28

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you **hypocrites**! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean.

In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of **hypocrisy** and wickedness.”

WHAT
WOULD
JESUS
UNDO?



**WHAT ARE SOME ANTI-
GOSPEL POSTURES THAT
UNDERMINE SPIRITUAL
VITALITY AND FROM
WHICH JESUS OFFERS TO
SET US FREE?**



**WHAT WOULD JESUS
UNDO?**

INDIFFERENCE

POLITICAL IDOLATRY

HYPOCRISY

HOLLOW WORSHIP

SPIRITUAL PRIDE

Brennan Manning:

The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians who acknowledge Jesus with their lips, then walk out the door and deny him with their lifestyle.

That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable.

Hypocrisy ISN'T the disparity between:

-what we do and what we wish we did

Hypocrisy ISN'T the disparity between:

-what we do and what we wish we did

Hypocrisy IS the disparity between:

-what we show and who we are

-what we say and how we live

-our public persona and our private character



Hypocrisy

From the
Greek word
hupokrites –
“an actor;
stage-player;
pretender”

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Hope for the hypocrite in all of us

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Matt 23:25-26 – “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! **First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.**

Hope for the hypocrite in all of us

>> Let the Spirit of God do a work internally
where no one else sees.

Hope for the hypocrite in all of us

- >> Let the Spirit of God do a work internally where no one else sees.
- >> It's better to be an honest sinner than a deceptive hypocrite.

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- >> Let the Spirit of God do a work internally where no one else sees.
- >> It's better to be an honest sinner than a deceptive hypocrite.
- >> Jesus has *zero tolerance* for hypocrisy. But he has *unlimited grace* for a sinner in need of forgiveness.

Hope for the hypocrite in all of us

>> You have nothing to fear when you have nothing to hide.

Hope for the hypocrite in all of us

>> You have nothing to fear when you have nothing to hide.

Prob 28:13

Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper,
but the one who confesses and renounces them
finds mercy.

Hope for the hypocrite in all of us

>> You have nothing to fear when you have nothing to hide.

Psalm 139:23-24

Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.

Hope for the hypocrite in all of us

>> We don't close the gap with perfection.
We close the gap with Christ!

Clean out, O God, the inner stream of my life:
all the **duplicity**, all the **avarice**, all the **falsity**.

Search out, O Lord, the hidden motives of my life:
all the **conceit**, all the **anger**, all the **fear**.

Root out, Divine Master, destructive actions in my life:
all the **manipulation**, all the **scheming**, all the **guile**.

May the operations of *faith, hope, and love* increase
in everything I am and in everything I do. Amen.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. (Ps 139:23-24)

God, I pray these words of the psalmist with great hesitation.

They are devastatingly honest.

They lay things so bare.

They allow no room for negotiation or compromise.

I fear the scrutiny.
I dread the probe.
I resist the intrusion.

And yet, I know that you are all love and so I am
entering nothing more than **the scrutiny of love**.
I refuse to allow my fears to keep me from your love.

*And so: Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me
and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way
in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Amen.*