



*"We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ." Col 1:28*

## "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner"

### Luke 11:37-44

March 26, 2023

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39 But the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and of the platter; but inside of you, you are full of robbery and wickedness.

40 "You foolish ones, did not He who made the outside make the inside also?"

41 "But give that which is within as charity, and then all things are clean for you.

42 "But woe to you Pharisees! For you pay tithe of mint and rue and every kind of garden herb, and yet disregard justice and the love of God; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.

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**37** Now when He had spoken, a Pharisee asked Him to have lunch with him; and He went in, and reclined at the table.

- We are still in the same setting.
- Jesus is again invited to dine with Pharisees and lawyers.
- Never turns them down.

#### Luke 7:36

36 Now one of the Pharisees was requesting Him to dine with him, and He entered the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table.

#### Mark 2:15

15 And it happened that He was reclining at the table in his house, and many tax collectors and sinners were dining with Jesus and His disciples; for there were many of them, and they were following Him.

- Verse 37 – Jesus goes into the house. Verse 53 – Jesus goes out of the house. In between these verses will crescendo.
- This is going to be a very awkward, uncomfortable conversation but a very important one for us to listen in on.

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- So now the tension begins and the Pharisee starts it off.
- They haven't even gotten into the meal yet.
- Θαυμαστος** – shocked, astonished – “can't believe it.”
- Never in this household did anyone ever sit down for a meal without ceremonially washing.
- This has nothing to do with hygiene. This has everything to do with demonstrating their self-righteousness.
- To a Pharisee, to not ceremonially wash, was equal to committing fornication.
- Nowhere in Scripture will you find a command to do this washing before a meal.
- This was an addition to Scripture. This is where religion goes off the rails.
- The kind of water used, the amount of water, and the manner it was poured on the arms and hands, were all meticulously followed.
- Jesus is sitting down ready to, give thanks, and to eat, “Would you please pass the potato salad?”
- The ceremonial washing was water poured from the elbows down.
- For the Jew “Cleanliness is next to godliness” is not enough but rather “Ritual cleanliness is godliness.”

“A really strict Jew would do this not only before the meal, but also between each course through the meal. The rabbis were deadly serious about this, saying that bread eaten with unwashed hands was no better than excrement. A rabbi who once failed to do this was considered excommunicated. Another rabbi was imprisoned by the Romans and used his ration of water for ceremonial cleansing instead of drinking, nearly dying of thirst – but being regarded as a great hero.”

**Matt 15:1-6**

- 1 Then some Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said,
- 2 "Why do Your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread."
- 3 And He answered and said to them, "Why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?"
- 4 "For God said, 'HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER,' and, 'HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH.'"
- 5 "But you say, 'Whoever says to his father or mother, "Whatever I have that would help you has been given to God,"
- 6 he is not to honor his father or his mother.' And by this you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition."

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- Jesus uses examples that are right on the table –cups, platters.
- It's all about the internal, unseen part of a person.
- You can make a cup and a platter look real good, real clean, and you can fool a lot of people.





**39** But the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and of the platter; but inside of you, you are full of robbery and wickedness.

- "But man, are you a mess on the inside!"
- Your dishes may look clean but your hearts are filthy.

#### **1 Sam 16:7**

7 God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

- You see, the outside is all man-made religion can affect.
- "They love symbols on the outside; they love sin on the inside."



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**40** "You foolish ones, did not He who made the outside make the inside also?"

- Jesus calls them fools.
- The maker of the cup and plate is just as concerned, if not more, about the inside as the outside.
- **Note:** Religion only sees value for that which is external. They think that is all God is concerned about. What a foolish thought.

#### **Rom 10:1-4**

1 Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation.

2 For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.

3 For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.

4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

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**41 "But give that which is within as charity, and then all things are clean for you."**

- Work on internal purity and then everything on the outside will be pure.
- "charity" – alms. When the Pharisees gave their alms, it was all for show.
- When you clean-up the inside, the outside will take care of itself.

"Give first the offering of the inward man. Give your heart, your affections, and your will to God, as the first great alms which you bestow, and then all your other actions, proceeding from a right heart, are an acceptable sacrifice, and a clean offering in the sight of God"

- J.C. Ryle

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- 6 "woes" – 3 this week and 3 next week.

"Woe" – you are in grave danger. A pronouncement of judgement.

1st "Woe": **You are obsessed with minutia.**

- Those at the table must be starting to squirm. Jesus goes to lunch and pronounces divine judgment on the host and his guests.
- Worrying about the minors (leaves of small plants), and missing the majors (justice and God's love).

**42 "But woe to you Pharisees! For you pay tithe of mint and rue and every kind of garden herb, and yet disregard justice and the love of God; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others."**

- Never told in the OT to tithe the minutia. Again, only done for show.
- Tithing is important, but not at the expense of justice and mercy.

**Mark 12:38-40**

38 In His teaching He was saying: "Beware of the scribes who like to walk around in long robes, and like respectful greetings in the market places,

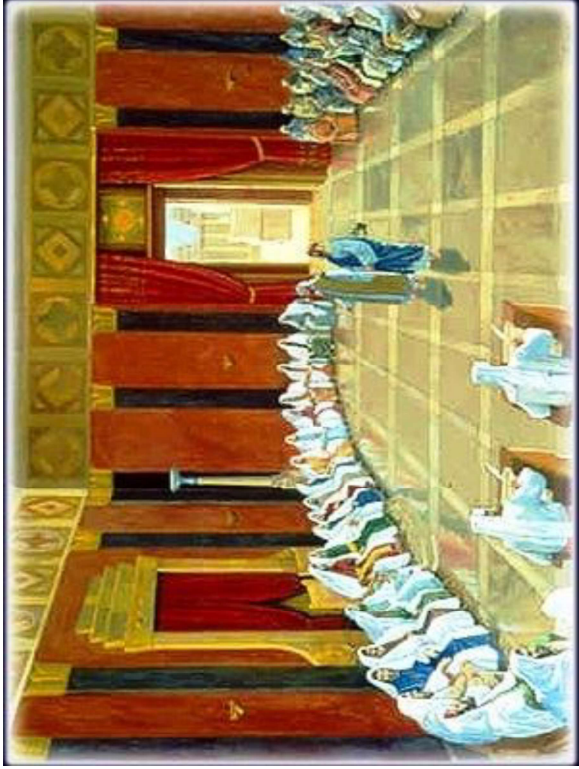
39 and chief seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets,

40 who devour (cheat) widows' (out of their) houses, and for appearance's sake offer long prayers; these will receive greater condemnation."



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- 2nd "Woe": You love attention.
- Religious leaders like to be admired, adored, praised for what they do.
  - They love an elevated position over others. They love to be seen.
  - They love titles, and garments that set them apart.
  - Note:** Beware of those who make much of titles and robes.

**Matt 23:5,6,8-10**

- 5 "But they do all their deeds to be noticed by men; for they broaden their phylacteries and lengthen the tassels of their garments.
- 6 "They love the place of honor at banquets and the chief seats in the synagogues,
- 8 "But do not be called Rabbi; for One is your Teacher, and you are all brothers.
- 9 "Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven.
- 10 "Do not be called leaders; for One is your Leader, that is, Christ.

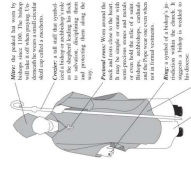


**Headwear**  
The mitre, a 2-pointed headdress, is worn by the pope, cardinals, and bishops. It is made of white or red silk or gold. The mitre is a symbol of the papacy and the episcopate.

**10 Symbols Associated With the Office of Bishop**

**The official Dress of the Archbishop**  
The Archbishop has various colors that make it easy for us to see that he is an Archbishop. Here are some of these special colors.

**ARCHBISHOPS**  
The Archbishop wears a purple or red cassock with a white sash. He also wears a white surplice and a white alb. He wears a white mitre and a white crozier.



**CARDINALS**  
The Cardinal wears a red cassock with a white sash. He also wears a white surplice and a white alb. He wears a red mitre and a red crozier.

**ARCHBISHOP**  
The Archbishop wears a purple cassock with a white sash. He also wears a white surplice and a white alb. He wears a white mitre and a white crozier.

**Other Dress**  
The priest wears a black cassock with a white sash. He also wears a white surplice and a white alb. He wears a black mitre and a black crozier.

**Priest's Mass Vestments**  
The priest wears a black cassock with a white sash. He also wears a white surplice and a white alb. He wears a black mitre and a black crozier.

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**3rd "Woe": You defile by your influence.**

- This is an unbelievable statement!
- This is not just stabbing with a knife but turning it as well.
- Numbers 19:16 and Lev. 21:1 – no one shall touch a dead person or you will be ceremonially unclean/defiled. Must go through purification process for 7 days.
- The Jews extended that to even touching a grave.
- That is why every grave in Israel is marked. In the 1<sup>st</sup> century the Jews would white-wash the tombstones to mark the graves.
- So Jesus is here saying, "Pharisees, you are like unmarked graves. When people come in contact with you, you are defiling them. It's just like walking over an unmarked grave."

**Matt 23:15**

15 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you travel around on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves."

**Application**

1. Where is my heart? Am I all about the external? Is my heart filled with sin? Do I even care?
2. Is my life so caught up in the minutia, the trivial, that I am missing the big picture?
3. Is my life about impressing others? What I wear? Where I go? What I do?
4. Who do I "touch"? What kind of influence am I having on others? Am I spreading "death" or am I spreading "life"?