

Week 8 - November 11, 2020

Today's reflection looks at an exchange between Jesus and a Pharisee who had invited Jesus over to his house. The Pharisees had positions of power and wealth in Jewish society during this time. They were religious authorities. Jesus is invited over to the house of this Pharisee, but then Jesus doesn't wash his hands before the meal, which would seem not only rude, but also a violation of religious laws to wash hands before a meal. Jesus responds by calling the Pharisees dirty, saying that they "look clean" on the outside, but deep down they are not clean.

The Gospel of Luke 11, Verses 37 - 44

...A Pharisee invited [Jesus] to dine at his home. He entered and reclined at table to eat.

The Pharisee was amazed to see that he did not observe the prescribed washing before the meal.

The Lord said to him, **"Oh you Pharisees! Although you cleanse the outside of the cup and the dish, inside you are filled with plunder and evil.**

You fools! Did not the maker of the outside also make the inside?

But as to what is within, give alms, and behold, everything will be clean for you.

Woe to you Pharisees! You pay tithes of mint and of rue and of every garden herb, but you pay no attention to judgment and to love for God. These you should have done, without overlooking the others.

Woe to you Pharisees! You love the seat of honor in synagogues and greetings in marketplaces. Woe to you! You are like unseen graves over which people unknowingly walk."

Reflection

Jesus tells the Pharisees that they look clean on the outside like a washed cup, but inside they are dirty, like a cup *“filled with plunder and evil.”* **What do you think Jesus really means when he talks about something being clean or dirty? What does it mean to be filled with plunder and evil?**

Can you think of anything that looks good on the outside, but actually isn't good for us? **What kinds of things can trick us into thinking they are “clean” when they really aren't?**

How do you think Jesus feels during this conversation? Is he angry, sad, happy? How do you think the Pharisee feels? How would you feel in this scenario?

Jesus says that if we want to be clean on the inside as well as the outside we need to give alms (charity). **How do you think that charity “cleans” us on the inside?** What are charitable things we can do to be clean?

Jesus says we need to pay attention to the “judgement and love of God.” **How do we pay attention to God's judgement and his love?**

Do you think there is a difference between doing good things to please God and doing good things to please others?

What does it mean to “love seats of honor” in public places? Why does Jesus think it's bad to want to be in a place of honor?

Jesus says that the Pharisees are like “unseen graves” over which people walk. **What do you think he means by this?**

Re-read the gospel story and reflect on Jesus' words about what it means to pay attention to God's judgement and love for us. As you read it again, think about how you can “be clean” not just on the outside. How can we keep Jesus' commandments? What are some ways we can feel Jesus' love for us? Finally, pray the Hail Mary and reflect on Mary's example of always paying attention to God's love and not caring about what other people thought of her.

Hail Mary full of Grace, the Lord is with thee.

Blessed are thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus.

Holy Mary Mother of God,

pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death

Amen.