

FIRST CLEAN THE INSIDE OF THE CUP

Good morning TCC – today we continue our series ... The power of spiritual alignment

- The topic today is alignment through inside out living.

Matthew 23:25-26 – Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the **outside** of the cup and dish, but **inside** they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. **26 Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside** of the cup and dish, that the **outside of them may be clean also.** (NKJV)

To gain a true appreciation for this verse we must understand the immediate context of this passage – Jesus is publically exposing the Pharisees for the frauds they had become... by pronouncing seven woes to them, found in verses 13-32.

1. They shut the door of the kingdom to common folks
2. They corrupted those coming to faith...
3. They reversed the truth about making oaths...
4. They turned the truth of God upside down
5. They exalted religious ritual above relationship with God
6. They externalized religion
7. They exalted themselves to superiority over the people

But Jesus sees right through it.

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Outside you look good, but inside of the cup... is full of extortion and self-indulgence.

Life Outside in (Legalism)

Legalism is a sign of Spiritual blindness.

Legalism is a distortion of the law adding layer upon layers of regulations making it impossible for people to even contemplate any sort of relationship with God.

Looking good on the outside.

Matthew 23:26-27...you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. ...27 **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. (NKJV)

South America

- Beautiful Tombs, above ground graves... still full of dead bones
- Looking good but full of death

Legalism is a killer- A satanic plot to keep people from true freedom in Christ...

- kills your future by keeping you bound to your past

Legalism leads to condemnation through attrition...

- wears a person down into a state of extreme Spiritual fatigue and futurism ... hopelessness sets it

Legalism is perverted holiness

- **2 Timothy 3:5 – Having a form of godliness...** only clean on the outside

Legalism is externally driven

- Looks at the outside of the cup only... driven by behavior **modification**

Clean up... sit up ... dress up... shut up... don't eat that... don't drink that...
Don't go there... don't touch that... it is an endless crazy cycle

It's fraudulently called ...Holiness...places the emphasis on DOING rather than BEING righteous

Colossians 2:21 – “Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch! 22These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. (NIV)

Mark 7:15 – It's not what goes into your body that defiles you; you are defiled by what comes from your heart.

- Cleaning the outside of the cup... will never bring eternal life... they are manmade and result in hopelessness

Jesus escalates the discussion in Matthew 5

Matthew 5:20 – For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven. (NIV)

- This is a tall order- remember even though they were blind spiritually they spent their whole life trying to find perfection

Jesus said our righteousness must be better, it must exceed, go farther than just an outside in life.

He then zeros in on this statement by giving a few examples

Matthew 5:21- "You have heard that the law of Moses says, 'Do not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.'...

Outside of the cup

22 But I say, **if you are angry with someone**, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the high council. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell. (NLT)

- Anger is now equated with murder, you call someone stupid, you curse them... the result is Hell.

Point: Inside of the cup is full of anger

He continues... "You have heard that the law of Moses says, '**Do not commit adultery.**'

- **Outside of the cup**

28 But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust in his eye has already committed adultery with her in his heart. NLT

- **Inside of the cup full of lust**

Mark 10:26-27- The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?" Who can win? No one can

Jesus continues... with several different subjects...impossible scenarios....

48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. NIV

All this is based on the statement: **Unless your righteousness exceed the Pharisees!!**

Q. What in the world is Jesus talking about? ... He's just taken us from impossible...to crazy impossible

Point: What we need is ...**A new platform for righteousness**

Living life inside-out

... first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.

Inside out ... life inside Christ

2 Corinthians 5:17 – Therefore, if anyone is **in Christ**, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! (NIV)

Colossians 3:3-4 – For you died, and your life is **now hidden with Christ in God**. (NIV)

Because we now have the Holy Spirit living inside of us... **the inside of the cup is clean...** empowering us to respond to Him and see the **outside reflect His finished work** on the inside

Galatians 2:20 -... and the life which I now live in the flesh (*outside*) **I live by the faith of the Son of God**, (*inside*) who loved me, and gave Himself for me. (NIV)

John 1:12 - But as many as received him, (*inside*) to them **He gave power to become** the sons of God, (NIV)

Romans 12:1 – Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, **in view of God's mercy**, (*inside*) to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, (*outside*) holy and pleasing to God... (NIV)

Titus 3:5 ...He saved us, **not because of righteous things we had done**, (*outside*) **but because of His mercy**. (*inside*) He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal **by the Holy Spirit**. (NIV)

TCC – inside-out living is based on His righteousness... spiritual cleansing

Inside-out living makes behavioral change a spiritual act of worship

1 Corinthians 6:20...Glorify God with our bodies...Because we are bought with a price

Ephesians 4:23-4... lay down our attitudes... called true Holiness...

Romans 12:2... Present our bodies to God as a living sacrifice...becomes Spiritual worship!!

TCC – Because now life change is Spirit-prompted... it will bring Spiritual results. Now it's a matter of the heart-mind to please Him. To represent Him well on the earth.

Inside-out living is more than, “Lord please help me!!”

- It's my whole life inside and out giving real glory and worship and honor to the Lord!
- So when Jesus said your righteousness must exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees.

He did... and when you received Him, you did too!

Jesus is our new platform for living

- Life from the outside in, the cup is truly clean
- Because I am born of the Spirit... I now can live by the Spirit
- Because of His righteousness in my life my actions now become pleasing and worshipful to him

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