

Uncles...or Pharisees?

(Luke 6:43-44; Mathew 6: 1-4, 5-8; Mathew 15:1-3, 7-9, 14, 16; Mathew 23: 13)

Introduction

It's time to dive right into it and look straight up at our churches. In our first four messages, we analyzed what we must do on our part to find our place in the church and that is through being humble and having a sober spirit through the Holy Spirit, listening to God's voice and not our fleshly voice, and finally being filled with the Holy Spirit to propel the church forward.

We must now look at and evaluate the status of our church. Where are we at? The main thing we must understand is that the church need not build on religion but must build on people obtaining Christ and salvation. Are we doing that?

Luke 6: 43-44

Good tree = good fruit

Bad tree = bad fruit

Compare our church to this tree. Is the church a good or bad tree? You can tell by the fruits it produces. What are good fruits? It is what God wants and what he wants is to bring souls to Christ. So what makes a good or bad tree in the idea of a church? It is the people.

Mathew 6: 1-4, 5-8

Christ is saying not to do everything for show. It is more about the heart. He is mainly talking to the Pharisees and leaders of the Jewish church because what they would do is put themselves on a pedal stool and make it seem like they're better and holier than everyone else. But Christ is saying it is more about the heart and not what you show on the outside. Actions should not look to attract or please people but to please God.

Mathew 15:1-3, 7-9, 14, 16

Verse 3: Christ hated tradition.

Verse 16: Washing hands was just washing outside but not the inside, the heart.

Verse 9: led by man's precepts which means man's commandments or tradition

Mathew 23: 13

Christ is dedicating the whole chapter (39 verses) plus what we looked at above to talking about how much he detests the Pharisees, leaders of the church. We are talking about leaders of the church man!

Why? Here is one of the main things we need to look at.

Verse 13: "Shut off the kingdom of heaven from people" and people who are on the verge of going in are shut off as well. They kept God and the faith away from others.

So, what were the main things Christ detested about the Pharisees and the Jewish church?

- They worried about everything on the outside and how they looked and portrayed themselves to people instead of worrying about how clean their hearts were in the eyes of God
- Inoculated their own man-made laws, precepts, and traditions for the church instead of God's
- Shut off the kingdom of heaven to people and at the same time took away those who were on the verge of getting in

Is this happening in our churches? Are we like the Pharisees and the Jewish church?

The Jewish church VS. The Malayalee church

- Jewish church leaders were the Pharisees, Malayalee church leaders are uncles
- Both races have a lot of pride and are a blessed race
- Both churches close their doors off to other people and narrow their gate to those who fit a certain mold to get in the church
- Both look at how well the church and everyone looks on the outside instead of what really matters: the cleanliness of the heart
- The Jewish church was built around man-made laws, precepts, and traditions...how much of the Malayalee church rules are built around traditions instead of what Christ and the Bible really says?

Conclusion

Christ DETESTED and HATED the Pharisees and the Jewish church they led. All they were doing was building a religion based on their own man-made laws, precepts, and commandments and doing what they felt was right. They shut their ears off to what God wanted.

Our churches are very similar to the Jewish church in the Bible. We are producing bad fruits because the tree itself is bad. We are following our own man-made laws and building a religion by not relying on what God wants for His worship. It's easy to point the finger at the uncles because they lead the church but what's to say we don't become just like these uncles and Pharisees? That is what the first four messages outlined. We must be humble and of a sober spirit through the Holy Spirit, we must adhere and listen to God's voice, and finally we must be filled with the Holy Spirit. This is how we can take steps towards changing our churches from a narrow-gated religion to an open faith that brings people to Christ and gives them eternal life.