

The Tragedy of the Pharisees

After teaching on the importance of having 'good' eyes that bring light into your life, Jesus accepts an invitation to dine at a Pharisee's house. Sadly, the Pharisee's eyes are immediately critical of Jesus. The response Jesus gives the Pharisee underscores the tragedy of a hypocritical commitment to merely external righteousness.

The Tragedy of the Pharisees is marked by:

1. Incomplete Obedience
 - a. The external and trivial are emphasized
 - b. The internal and weighty commands are neglected

2. Personal Exaltation
 - a. A desire for pre-eminence
 - b. A desire for recognition

3. Invisible Corruption
 - a. Unmarked graves
 - b. The corruption of others *Num. 9:6-10; Lev. 21:1-4,11*

Application:

1. Are we guilty of neglecting either the 'inner' or 'outer' requirements of God's law?
2. Are we committed to living in light of *Philippians 2:3-4? Luke 9:46-48?*
3. Are we guilty of leading others astray by our self-interested and incomplete obedience to God?
4. How will we respond to Christ's lament over these effects of sin? Will we turn to him?