



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Luke Sermon Series
Supports Session 7: Cornerstone
Sermon Title: "You Might Be A Hypocrite If ..."
Passage: Luke 20:1-8

Connection to Luke 20

Luke made it clear in his Gospel that the religious leaders opposed Jesus and wanted Him dead. And Jesus was certainly aware of their intentions. (9:22) Leading up to His trial, Jesus had several run-ins with the religious leaders who were trying to trap Him in His own words or actions. Verses 1-8 of chapter 20 record the first of a series of confrontations Jesus had with the religious leaders leading up to His death.

Introduction/Opening

Throughout Jesus' ministry, He regularly encountered hypocrites. Most of the time the hypocrites were actually Israel's religious leaders. All of these hypocrites demonstrated certain characteristics that marked them as disingenuous. In His encounter with Israel's leaders in Luke 20:1-8, Jesus came face to face with a group of hypocrites whose motivations and actions reveal what hypocrisy looks like. From those characteristics it is possible to realize you might be a hypocrite if ...

Outline

1. If you reject Jesus' authority in favor of your own, you might be a hypocrite (vv. 1-4).
 - a. Luke clued his readers into the true motivation of the religious leaders in 19:47-48. They were not genuinely interested in the source of Jesus' authority. They asked Him in hopes that He would incriminate Himself by claiming divine authority and give them a justifiable charge of blasphemy—a reason to arrest and kill Him.
 - b. Jesus' counterquestion was not a diversionary tactic, but rather a designed question to force them to recognize that because they had rejected John's authority, they had indirectly rejected Jesus' authority. In Luke 5:33, the Pharisees implied they believed John had authority from God. Because John prophesied about Jesus and even baptized Him, He too had authority from God.
 - c. Because the people recognized Jesus' authority, crowds followed Him wherever He went. They loved His teaching and hoped to see Him demonstrate His power. The hypocritical religious leaders felt threatened by His success and authority, so they rejected it and asserted their own.
 - d. When people who claim to be followers of Jesus reject His lordship over their lives and live by their own wisdom and authority, they are hypocritical.

2. If you are more concerned about your appearances than truth, you might be a hypocrite (vv. 5-8).
- a. When the religious leaders recognized the craftiness of Jesus' question, they began to discuss among themselves how to answer Him. They realized Jesus had backed them into a corner. They couldn't provide an answer that wouldn't cause embarrassment.
 - b. Instead of desiring truth, the religious leaders preferred to keep up their appearances. By refusing to answer Jesus, they hoped to save face.
 - c. A true hypocrite cares more about how he or she looks to the crowd than knowing and living the truth of God.

Conclusion

Jeff Foxworthy's "You might be a redneck" jokes are humorous, especially when we identify with the punchline. But there is nothing funny about being a hypocrite. Jesus' strongest words of judgment were reserved for the hypocrites of His day and Peter has called all followers of Jesus to stop playing games and put aside hypocrisy (1 Pet. 2:1).

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