

Week of April 2 - Clean the Inside Small Group Lesson 3

Connect

Do you enjoy spy stories or movies? How about stories or movies about fraudsters or con-artists? How are they different?

Verses – Matthew 23:23-28 (CSB)

23 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You pay a tenth of mint, dill, and cumin, and yet you have neglected the more important matters of the law — justice, mercy, and faithfulness. These things should have been done without neglecting the others. 24 Blind guides! You strain out a gnat, but gulp down a camel!

25 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. 26 Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup, so that the outside of it may also become clean.

27 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which appear beautiful on the outside, but inside are full of the bones of the dead and every kind of impurity. 28 In the same way, on the outside you seem righteous to people, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

Study

1. What is a hypocrite? How are the scribes and Pharisees acting like hypocrites? (Matthew 7:5; 1 John 4:20; Matthew 15:7-9)

2. How do each of the warnings point out the practices of the scribes and Pharisees as being undeveloped and only partially complete? What are they doing, yet what are they lacking? (2 Timothy 3:5; Matthew 7:15)

☕ **DISCUSS:** How could the scribes and pharisees have avoided criticism from Jesus? In their case, how could they have achieved authenticity?

🏃 **APPLY:** How can we be authentic in our relationships with others? How does humility, humbleness, and vulnerability affect our relationships with God? How does it affect our relationship with each other? (Matthew 6:10; John 8:44-45; 1 John 3:10)

Share

How has learning to be humble affected your relationship with the Lord and with others?

Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Pray for the Lord to help us to be humble before Him.
- Would you like to share your love and hope to kids through TBCKIDZ Church? Contact: sumiko@tokyobaptist.org