

WEEK 32:

ENGAGING THE RELIGIOUS

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE:

Luke 11:37-12:3

RELATED SCRIPTURES:

Isaiah 64:1-6, Ezekiel 34, Luke 15 and 18:9-14,
Matthew 16:5-12 and 23:1-39 and 25:31-46, Mark 8:14-21,
Romans 3:10-26 and 4:1-8 and 15:1-7,
The Book of Galatians, Philippians 3:1-10

“...there was a deep, black, wordless conviction in him that the way to avoid Jesus was to avoid sin.”

- Flannery O'Connor

“[People] who are no longer sure that God loves and accepts them in Jesus, apart from their present spiritual achievements, are subconsciously radically insecure persons... Their insecurity shows itself in pride, a fierce, defensive assertion of their own righteousness, and defensive criticism of others. They come naturally to hate other cultural styles and other races in order to bolster their own security and discharge their suppressed anger.”

- Richard Lovelace

PERSONAL STUDY:

Read Luke 12:1-3. In light of v. 2-3, what is the leaven of the Pharisees that Jesus mentions in v. 1? Why does religious adherence to the law lead to people who keep a lot hidden in the dark? Is there anything you're hiding currently?

Read Luke 11:37-54. Outline Jesus' series of rebukes.

What themes do you notice in Jesus' rebukes? Describe the heart that He is confronting. What about the gospel does this heart posture understand and what does it fail to understand?

Which rebukes are confusing or unclear? How can you study further to gain understanding?

Which of Jesus' rebukes apply most directly to you? Where do you need to repent?

Read Ezekiel 34 and 1 Peter 2:9-10. What are God's expectations for people who are ministering in His name?

What do we learn from Jesus' warnings to the Pharisees about temptations for people engaged in ministry?

SERMON NOTES:



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION:

Do you have a positive or negative impression of the word religious?
Why? Who are the most religious people you know? How religious would
you say you are?



Read Luke 11:37-46. During your study of this passage or during the
sermon, which of Jesus’ rebukes to the Pharisees and lawyers stood out
to you?

Why are we quick to see evidence of religious Pharisaism in others and
slow to see it in ourselves? What excuses do we use to justify our own
self-righteousness?



Read Ezekiel 34:1-6, Romans 15:1-7 and Luke 11:46. What does it look
like for us to heed Jesus’ warning and help others bear the burden of the
law instead of crushing them with it?

What motivation does Paul give in Romans 15 for bearing with those who
are weak in their faith? Who do you know who thinks following Jesus is
all about obeying rules? How can we love them well?

Spend some time praying for God’s Spirit to show us our religious hypoc-
risy so that we are graciously equipped to love those who are religiously
crushed under the burden of the law.

