

# Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

## SSBC Luke Bible Study #43

*Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.*

Passage: Luke 11:37-12:3

Sermon Date: Jul 16, 2006

### Introduction:

#### **I've had a bad day.**

Yesterday was really a hard day. I won't burden you with the details. But is it okay to share this at all? Should I mask my weaknesses and struggles? A catchy pop song called "Bad Day" exposes our common hypocrisy:

"You're faking a smile with the coffee to go"

So what's wrong with a little mask wearing now and then? Well, it's about our hearts, and a little hypocrisy is like the couple weeds in my garden – they always usher in an army of more weeds! Soon our heart gets choked out.

In this week's Bible passage, some Pharisees and scribes have a bad day. They try to outsmart and trap Jesus, but he turns the tide and exposes their hypocrisy and weed-choked hearts. As you begin this study, ask God to guard your heart, to expose your own hypocrisy and other sorts of "weeds", and to speak his truth into your life.

### Bible Study:

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the charts on the next pages to write your observations and questions.

*This bible study was developed by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. To hear a sermon on the same scripture passage covered in this bible study, come to one of our Sunday worship services (8:30am or 11:00am) on the date listed on page 1. Or after that date you can hear it by logging on to [www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/](http://www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/)*

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Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p><sup>37</sup> When Jesus had finished speaking, a Pharisee invited him to eat with him; so he went in and reclined at the table.</p> <p><sup>38</sup> But the Pharisee, noticing that Jesus did not first wash before the meal, was surprised.</p> <p><sup>39</sup> Then the Lord said to him, "Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. <sup>40</sup> You foolish people! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also? <sup>41</sup> But give what is inside the dish to the poor, and everything will be clean for you.</p> <p><sup>42</sup> "Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.</p> <p><sup>43</sup> "Woe to you Pharisees, because you love the most important seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces.</p> <p><sup>44</sup> "Woe to you, because you are like unmarked graves, which men walk over without knowing it."</p> <p><sup>45</sup> One of the experts in the law answered him, "Teacher, when you say these things, you insult us also."</p> <p><sup>46</sup> Jesus replied, "And you experts in the law, woe to you, because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them.</p> <p><sup>47</sup> "Woe to you, because you build tombs for the prophets, and it was your</p>	

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>forefathers who killed them. <sup>48</sup> So you testify that you approve of what your forefathers did; they killed the prophets, and you build their tombs. <sup>49</sup> Because of this, God in his wisdom said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and others they will persecute.' <sup>50</sup> Therefore this generation will be held responsible for the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the beginning of the world, <sup>51</sup> from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, this generation will be held responsible for it all.</p> <p><sup>52</sup> "Woe to you experts in the law, because you have taken away the key to knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you have hindered those who were entering."</p> <p><sup>53</sup> When Jesus left there, the Pharisees and the teachers of the law began to oppose him fiercely and to besiege him with questions, <sup>54</sup> waiting to catch him in something he might say.</p> <p><b>12</b> <sup>1</sup> Meanwhile, when a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so that they were trampling on one another, Jesus began to speak first to his disciples, saying: "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. <sup>2</sup> There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. <sup>3</sup> What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs.</p>	

2. Next, use this chart to **interpret some key observations**.

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from pages 2-3 that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and interpret and apply them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

<b>Observation</b> What does it say?	<b>Interpretation</b> What does it mean?

3. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- **S**ins to avoid
- **P**romises to believe
- **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- **C**ommands to obey
- **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them – listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

<b>Application</b> How do I apply what it means?

**Dig Deeper:**

4. Given the importance of ceremonial washing in the law (Num 19:12 for instance), what's the "double entendre" or dual meaning of the imagery of cleaning the inside and the outside of things in Lk 11:39-41? How did the Pharisees tend to focus on washing the outside of things while disregarding the inside?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Toward understanding 11:44, what was the significance of touching a grave in Jewish culture (see Num 19:11-20). How did people who were subject to the Pharisees' heavy legalism and many rules effectively become "unclean" or more separated from God?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Jesus refers to the "key to knowledge" in Luke 11:52.
  - a. What is that key, and how did the experts in the law take away that key from those seeking God? (consider Isa 33:5-6, Matt 16:19, and Luke 24:44-48)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What are some ways in which modern-day "experts in the law" sometimes hinder people from truly growing closer to Christ?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Do a topical review of the concept of hypocrisy in the Bible; look for God's perspective about it, as well as instances of it in your own life.
  - Prov 23:7
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - Prov 26:25
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - Matt 23:3
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - Matt 23:28
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - 1 Tim 4:2
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - Titus 1:16
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - Rev 3:1
  - a. How does God regard hypocrisy?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What are some examples of hypocrisy that you are aware of in the Christian community around you or in the church? Where do we tend to substitute legalism for the gospel?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. What are examples of hypocrisy in your own life and in your own heart? Where are you pretending, wearing a "mask" of propriety?

d. How does our hypocrisy or pretending serve as a stumbling block or obstacle to others' spiritual journeys and actually make it harder for others to grow closer to Christ?

e. What does God want us to do in light of our hypocrisy and sinfulness? (skim ahead into Lk 12; read Mic 6:6-8, Rom 10:1-17)

*Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough? Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast – as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth. (1 Cor 5:6b-8)*

8. In such a spirit of sincerity and truth, how will you apply what you have learned in this Bible study to your life?

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! (2 Cor 5:17)*