

Sept 03, 2023



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks  
Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

◆  
**Lesson Leaders:**

James Haymon  
Barry Hosford

**Class Leaders:**

Inreach: Pat Hester  
Deacon: C M Hester

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

Why is Genesis 38 in the Bible?  
One reason is because it's the story of our hypocritical human hearts—and of God's heart of love, grace, and mercy

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:**

Help me to see, Father, that at the heart of the matter, we're all hypocrites who need Your forgiveness

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**

So Judah acknowledged them and said, "She has been more righteous than I, because I did not give her to Shelah my son." And he never knew her again  
**(Gen 38:26 NKJV)**

*(from "Our Daily Bread", Feb 10, 2016)*

**Series: God's Law Is Love**

**UNIT 1: Love Completes,  
Law Falls Short**

**NEXT WEEK**

**Jesus Silences Critics  
(Luke 14:1-6)**

## Jesus Confronts Hypocrisy Luke 11:37-44

### Lesson Background and Introduction

The Gospel of Luke is the first of a two-volume work attributed to "Luke, the doctor" (Colossians 4:14). The man Luke was likely the same individual mentioned as the traveling companion of the apostle Paul (2 Timothy 4:11). This would explain the use of "we" throughout the book of Acts (examples: Acts 16:10-12; 20:5-6; 21:1), which is the second volume of Luke's writing (1:1-3). Together, the books of Luke and Acts describe the establishment and expansion of the first-century church. Today's Scripture is part of a larger section that details Jesus' journey to Jerusalem (Luke 9:51-19:44). Immediately prior to the events of this lesson's Scripture, Jesus had been teaching (11:1-4) and healing (11:14-15). His teaching called out the wickedness of the people (11:29-32) and emphasized the importance of their internal spiritual transformation (11:33-36). The religious leaders undoubtedly heard what Jesus was teaching and doing as he traveled to Jerusalem. The New Testament Gospels describe Jesus' interactions with the Pharisees more than any other party of first-century Judaism. The Pharisees were a small but influential sect. Their focus was on strict adherence to Judaism (see Acts 26:5), which would have involved obedience to the Law of Moses (also called Torah), the first five books of the Old Testament. The Pharisees believed that by faithfully obeying even the smallest parts of the law, they would experience blessing from God. In an effort to follow the law faithfully, the Pharisees had established a tradition to guide their behavior (see Mark 7:3-5). The Pharisees sought to "build a fence" around the Law of Moses by enforcing this tradition and their own rules. The expectation was that by following the Pharisees' tradition, a person would faithfully keep God's commands, even down to the most obscure command. The Pharisees' zeal, however, had caused them to lose sight of the intentions of the law and the extent to which they had been influenced by tradition. They had focused so heavily on their prideful adherence to tradition that they neglected to cultivate hearts of worship that the law required (see Matthew 15:1-9). Jesus denounced the Pharisees for their pride and hypocrisy (examples: 23:1-7; Luke 18:9-14). As a result, instances of conflict between Jesus and the Pharisees arose (examples: 6:1-11; 16:13-14; John 7:28-34; 11:57). Despite the hostile relationship, Jesus accepted invitations to eat with the Pharisees. Today's Scripture describes the second time in Luke's Gospel that Jesus dined with a Pharisee (see also Luke 7:36-50; 14:1-6). Accounts similar to those found in today's lesson are found in Matthew 15:1-20; 23:5-7, 23-28; and Mark 12:38-39.

In many ways, faults similar to those Jesus pointed out in the Pharisees can be found in people today. The Pharisees prioritized outward displays of holiness, while failing to do the important work of love, mercy, and justice. Pursuing counterfeit displays of holiness, while potentially easier than going after what God requires, leaves people as hypocrites. God wants his people to experience holiness in all aspects of their lives. Followers of Jesus must remember to honor the commands to love God, show justice, and demonstrate merciful love, above any other traditions. Only then will believers exercise a "pure" religion before God (James 1:27). A failure to do so indicates that one's heart has not been transformed. Consider the following questions: Does your behavior lead you to love God more deeply? Does your behavior lead you to act justly or advocate for justice for others? If you can answer positively to both questions, then you are on the right track to loving God and your neighbor

*(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Hypocrisy Over Cleanliness (Luke 11:37-41)**

#### *Cleanliness through water (37-38)*

- Water that satisfies the soul that thirsts for God (Ps 42:1-2)
- Water that satisfies because Jesus has the water of life (Rev 21:6)
- Water that satisfies because of eternal satisfaction (John 4:13-14)
- Water that is used in baptism (Acts 1:5)

#### *Cleanliness on the inside (39-40)*

- Inside by the blood of Jesus that completely sanctifies (Heb 9:13-14)
- Inside hearts being sprinkled through faith (Heb 10:22)
- Inside by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:11)
- Inside a willingness to trust God (Matt 8:2-3)
- Inside and not just on the outside (Matt 23:25-26)

#### *Cleanliness through generosity (41)*

- Generous by having regard for the weak (Ps 41:1)
- Generous by giving beyond our ability (2 Cor 8:1-3)
- Generous by supplying the needs of God's people (2 Cor 9:12)
- Generous by doing good to all people (Gal 6:10)

### **Hypocrisy Causing Three Woes (Luke 11:42-44)**

#### *Woe against injustice (42)*

- Injustice that God detests (Prov 17:15)
- Injustice that brings curses (Prov 24:23-25)
- Injustice corrupts (Eccl 7:7)
- Injustice through following the ways of the world (Eccl 5:8)

#### *Woe against pride (43)*

- Pride causes destruction (Prov 16:18)
- Pride is an abomination to God (Prov 16:5)
- Pride that keeps one from seeking God (Ps 10:4)
- Pride makes one a fool (Prov 26:12)

#### *Woe against being a stumbling block (44)*

- Stumbling block by misuse of freedom (1 Cor. 8:9)
- Stumbling block by not loving our brothers and sisters (1 John 2:10)
- Stumbling block because we are not perfect (James 3:2)
- Stumbling block by causing others to sin (Matt 18:6)