

A WARNING AGAINST HYPOCRISY

Monday, February 26, 2018, 11th Day of Lent

Matthew 23:1-3 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: 2 “The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. 3 So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach.

One of the reasons my acquaintances have given for not going to church is that “THEY are just a bunch of hypocrites!” And I’ve known that they are right in that assessment, but Jesus is telling us here that it was that way in His circles too! He doesn’t suggest that we try to correct them but that we learn from what they have to say!

Some of the people around me have admired some of the things I’ve done and commented that I am “a good man” but I know differently.

I know that my own performance as a Christian falls short of what God calls us to do and I find it hard to admit to all of my shortcomings in front of the people who know me.

I have been destructive and cruel to people around me when I ought to have been walking in the Spirit and lifting them up.

I have known and wanted to do what I should but failed to do so.

I pray that my honesty in who I am reveals that I am not a good example for we have only one good example and that is Jesus Christ.

Yes, if you follow me into my church, you will be surrounded by hypocrites. Hypocrisy is just one of our sins that we freely confess to God as He does His work in us. We are learning to be the citizens of God’s kingdom and we have a long way to go. Even “us hypocrites” can love people.

Prayer:

We know ourselves to be sinners of every type, sinners who sin against you! We offend and obstruct our brothers and sisters through our inadequacies.
We embrace your work that changes us and transforms the world.
Lord let us be your humble servants here and now in building your kingdom that we may be your exalted servants there and then when your kingdom is fulfilled.
Amen

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