



Greater Than: Religion

MAY 30 & 31, 2015

We are continuing in our series entitled, "Greater Than" out of Luke 11 and 12. This week focuses on the topic of religion. God's plan through Jesus is that broken people (sinners) would find restoration and peace through a relationship with Jesus. The danger is, it's so hard for many people to believe God's grace is truly grace that they try to earn his love – and they develop lots of new rules and feel great pride when they keep them. This week reminds us how to keep first things first.

WITH THE GROUP



LEARNING | BEGINNING TO CONNECT WITH THE TOPIC

Why do you think Jesus was so hard on the Pharisees? Do you see examples of Pharisees today?



LEARNING | GETTING CLEAR ON WHAT WAS TAUGHT

What are the six woes found in Luke 11:42-52? Can you put them in your own language in ways that make sense to you? What is the heart of Jesus' statements?



LOVING | GROWING OUR HEART FOR A LOVING GOD

What parts of the sermon were most challenging, enlightening or helpful for you?

How do the "Six Woes" inform your perspective of God and his heart for his people? In what ways are you able to see God as a God of love and freedom through these warnings?



LIVING | STARTING TO LIVE LIKE JESUS DAILY

When you look at Jesus' concerns in the "woe" passages, were the things the Pharisees and Scribes were doing wrong in and of themselves? What was really the issue that Jesus recognized?

What do you imagine Jesus would say to you about your faith and faith practices if you had invited him over for dinner?

DIGGING DEEPER

If there were a spectrum between "having faith and doing nothing about it" all the way to "having strict practices and regulations but no heart"; what are the criteria to help you know when you were going too far or not far enough in your life? What is a spiritual life, faithful life, religious life and how might they be different? What is the larger goal of Christ for each of us? What is the disciple or follower defined by in terms of beliefs and practices?

GRADUATE LEVEL

Consider some of the following scriptures: Micah 6, Matthew 11 and Colossians 2. What can you learn here about what God expects vs. the rigorous rules we put on ourselves beyond what God expects? How can you develop a faith that has marks of "denying yourself, taking up your cross and following him" while also avoiding elevating expectations and requirements for a life in Christ? Does what you expect of yourself hold for what you should expect of others?