

Living Sacrifices or Hypocrites?

INTRODUCTION: What happens when we say one thing and do another?

Jeremiah 42:20-22 (NKJV) ²⁰For you were hypocrites in your hearts when you sent me to the LORD your God, saying, 'Pray for us to the LORD our God, and according to all that the LORD your God says, so declare to us and we will do it.' ²¹And I have this day declared it to you, but you have not obeyed the voice of the LORD your God, or anything which He has sent you by me. ²²Now therefore, know certainly that you shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence in the place where you desire to go to dwell."

I. When we commit to do whatever God says do we mean it?

- ◆ **Romans 12:1-2** – present body a living sacrifice, reasonable service
- ◆ **Mark 10:21** – sell all, take up cross, follow Jesus
- ◆ **Luke 14:26-27, 33-35** – hate all, forsake all
- ◆ **2 Cor 8:3-5** – give self first to the Lord
- ◆ **Matt 6:33** – seek first the kingdom

Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV) ¹I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. ²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Mark 10:21 (NKJV) ²¹Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me."

Luke 14:26-27(NKJV) ²⁶"If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. ²⁷And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

Luke 14:33-35 (NKJV) ³³So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple. ³⁴"Salt *is* good; but if the salt has lost its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? ³⁵It is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill, *but* men throw it out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

2 Corinthians 8:3-5 (NKJV) ³For I bear witness that according to *their* ability, yes, and beyond *their* ability, *they were* freely willing, ⁴implored us with much urgency [£]that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. ⁵And not *only* as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and *then* to us by the will of God.

Matthew 6:33 (NKJV) ³³But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

II. Since we know these things, does hypocrisy characterize our life?

A. What is hypocrisy?

Hypocrisy is a failure to practice what we preach. Presenting ourselves outwardly to others as righteous, while actually being full of uncleanness and self-indulgence.

B. Why is hypocrisy so dangerous to our soul?

1. **Psalms 15:1-2 (NKJV)** ¹LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? ²He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart;
2. **Psalms 51:6 (NKJV)** ⁶ Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden *part* You will make me to know wisdom.
3. **James 1:22 (NIV)** “Do not merely listen to the word, and so *deceive* yourselves. Do what it says.”
4. **Galatians 6:7-8 (ESV)** ⁷Do not be *deceived*: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. ⁸For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.
5. **1 John 1:8 (NIV)** “If we claim to be without sin, we *deceive* ourselves and the truth is not in us.”
6. **Isaiah 1:13-14 (ESV)** ¹³Bring no more vain offerings; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath and the calling of convocations—I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly. ¹⁴Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hates; they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them.

“This is exactly what so arouses God’s anger in these Old Testament passages. The people want the blessings of God and the approval of men, but without actually turning their hearts to God and submitting their lives to his rule. The people want to follow the law’s prescriptions for worship, but only out of custom and superstition, and only to look good in the eyes of others. They do not want to change their lives, their habits, their affections to conform to God’s will. DeYoung says, ‘The hypocrite is the Christian who uses the veneer of public virtue to cover the rot of private vice. He’s the man living a double life, the woman fooling her friends because she (wears nice) church clothes, the student who proudly answers the questions in (Bible class) and just as proudly romps through immorality the rest of the week.’ At heart, hypocrisy is religion as a means of personal enrichment or enhanced reputation. It is an abomination to the God who sees and knows the heart.”

-- Tim Challies, <https://www.challies.com/articles/god-hates-hypocrisy/>

III. We are likely to be guilty of hypocrisy at times. How do we avoid being a hypocrite?

A. Peter did not continue in his hypocrisy!

Galatians 2:11-14 (ESV) ¹¹But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. ¹²For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. ¹³And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. ¹⁴But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel,...

B. In what areas might we be hypocritical and not present ourselves as living sacrifices to God?

- Moral weakness, lack of self-control.

- Dishonesty, outright deception.
- Corrupt talk filled with strife and cursing
- Pride expressed by a self-righteous attitude.
- Pride expressed by hiding sins.
- Hate only the sins we choose to hate, justify the others.
- Refuse to submit to God, no fear.

C. The hypocrite becomes blind to his own sin.

1. **Matthew 23:16, 19, 24:** ¹⁶Woe to you, blind guides! ¹⁹Fools and blind! ²⁴Blind guides! ²⁶Blind Pharisee!
2. **Matthew 23:25-28 (ESV)** ²⁵**Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. ²⁶You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean. ²⁷**Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. ²⁸So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

CONCLUSION

Luke 6:46 (NKJV) ⁴⁶“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?”

James 3:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality **and without hypocrisy.**