

The Folly of Faithless Fools

Luke 11:37–54

Main Point

Abandon the folly of faithlessness.

I. Introduction

- A. Luke, writing to a Gentile named Theophilus, is at the point in his book where he describes how Christ is tangling with the religious leaders of the Jewish nation. Christ is not “pulling punches” with them; He in no uncertain terms condemns them.
- B. The problem of the religious leaders in Jesus’ day is not foreign to our present day. People for millennia have believed themselves capable of “reforming” the outside (i.e., the external actions) with the assumption that it is how one is made right with God: *Do good things because that makes you a good person in the eyes of God.*
- C. Christ made it clear (as does the entire Bible) that the issue of humanity is not sourced from *without*; it is sourced from *within*.
- D. Religious actions done apart from genuine faith which is produced by God’s Spirit are nothing short of folly and faithless. Christ calls the religious leaders of His day (and all people of all time periods) to abandon the folly of faithlessness and exhibit a true, genuine faith produced by God’s Spirit.

II. Exposition

- A. Setting: *A meal with a Pharisee* (11:37–38)
 - 1. The invitation from the Pharisee was likely not intended to be an olive branch. He probably was intending to closely scrutinize the traveling Rabbi.
 - 2. He immediately began to judge Jesus because he had not performed “the washing ritual before dinner” (CSB).
- B. Condemnation #1: *Pharisees*
 - 1. Explanation (11:39–41) — *an issue from within (i.e., from the heart)*
 - 2. Oracles of Woe (11:42–44)
 - a) Woe #1: Religious Hypocrisy
 - b) Woe #2: Religious Popularity
 - c) Woe #3: Religious Emptiness
- C. Condemnation #2: *Scribes*
 - 1. Scribes Indignation (11:45)
 - 2. Oracles of Woe (11:46–52)
 - a) Woe #1: Religious Hypocrisy
 - b) Woe #2: Religious Persecution
 - c) Woe #3: Religious Thieves
- D. Conclusion (11:53–54) — *Religious leaders oppose Jesus*

III. Truths

- A. Anything done apart from genuine faith is hypocritical and empty.
- B. Genuine faith produces real change.