

Hypocrites Anonymous

Meals With Jesus

[Luke 11:37-44, 53-54](#)

Throughout this sermon series, we've seen how meals become places where Jesus challenges expectations and reveals the boundaries of God's grace. From Levi's banquet to the dinner at Simon's house where Jesus' feet were anointed by a woman with a questionable reputation, Jesus repeatedly welcomes those who seem unlikely to belong. In this week's passage from Luke 11, Jesus accepts yet another invitation from a Pharisee.

- 1. Why do you think we see the Pharisees continuing to invite Jesus into their homes? Could something in them recognize that they need what he offers, even if they do not fully understand it?**
- 2. Can you think of a time when you were drawn to a difficult truth, even though it made you uncomfortable?**

In this passage, Jesus confronts a deeper issue than merely outward religious practices. He exposes the exhausting burden of maintaining appearances while hiding what is really happening in the heart. Hypocrisy can take the form of seeking recognition for our faithfulness or presenting one version of ourselves to others while living differently in private. Keeping up appearances takes tremendous energy and often keeps us from experiencing God's grace.

- 1. What obstacles or masks do people commonly maintain that prevent them from being honest with God and others?**
- 2. Why do you think it is so difficult to admit our weaknesses, failures, or inconsistencies?**

The good news of this passage is not merely that Jesus exposes hypocrisy, but that he offers grace to those who recognize their need. When we experience this same undeserved love and acceptance, it changes how we see God and how we relate to others. Jesus invites us to stop pretending and come to him as we truly are, which in turn deepens our relationship with him.

- 1. How does God's grace help us become more honest about who we are?**
- 2. What would it look like this week to receive God's love more fully or extend that same grace to someone else?**

