

# A Declaration of Those Things Which Are Most Surely Believed Among Us

An Expositional Study of **The Gospel According to Luke**

**Chapter 11- Luke 11:33-36**

223- These You Should Have Done Without Neglecting  
the Others- Part 1

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October 13, 2013

**Luke 11:37-54**

**37** Now when He had spoken, a Pharisee asked Him to have lunch with him; and He went in, and reclined *at the table*.

**38** When the Pharisee saw it, he was surprised that He had not first ceremonially washed before the meal.

**39** But the Lord said to him, "**Now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and of the platter; but inside of you, you are full of robbery and wickedness.**

**40** "**You foolish ones, did not He who made the outside make the inside also?**

**41** "**But give that which is within as charity, and then all things are clean for you.**

**42** "**But woe to you Pharisees! For you pay tithe of mint and rue and every kind of garden herb, and yet disregard justice and the love of God; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.**

**43** "**Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the chief seats in the synagogues and the respectful greetings in the market places.**

**44** "**Woe to you! For you are like concealed tombs, and the people who walk over them are unaware of it."**

**45** One of the lawyers said to Him in reply, "Teacher, when You say this, You insult us too."

**46** But He said, "**Woe to you lawyers as well! For you weigh men down with burdens hard to bear, while you yourselves will not even touch the burdens with one of your fingers.**

**47** "**Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets, and *it was* your fathers *who* killed them.**

**48 "So you are witnesses and approve the deeds of your fathers; because it was they who killed them, and you build *their tombs*.**  
**49 "For this reason also the wisdom of God said, 'I will send to them prophets and apostles, and *some* of them they will kill and *some* they will persecute,**  
**50 so that the blood of all the prophets, shed since the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation,**  
**51 from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the house *of God*; yes, I tell you, it shall be charged against this generation.'**  
**52 "Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge; you yourselves did not enter, and you hindered those who were entering."**  
**53 When He left there, the scribes and the Pharisees began to be very hostile and to question Him closely on many subjects,**  
**54 plotting against Him to catch *Him* in something He might say.**

To the Glory of God

It truly is an amazing thing that the most powerful condemnation that ever came out of the Mouth of Jesus was directed at the most religious people on earth. That truly is an amazing thing and something that should cause all of us to tremble before God.

As I have told you on many occasions- there is probably very little about the official doctrine of the Pharisees that any of us would disagree with. These were the conservatives of their day; the strict constructionists; these are the people who wanted the Jews to learn the Scriptures; the people who set up teaching centers all throughout Israel so that they could teach them the Word of God; these were the people who wanted the Government to obey God; that wanted officials within the Government to be holy; these were the ones who were against high taxes; who were against abortion; who were against homosexuality; who condemned adultery and divorce and wanted purity and integrity in positions of leadership.

Yet none of them were saved. These men didn't know God- at all. They didn't love God and the certainly didn't enjoy God- at all. These men were not panting after God and they did not really even understand the Scriptures that they hung so closely to. And when God Incarnate stood before them- When God Almighty took on flesh and

came down and walked among them for 33-1/2 years- they were insulted and offended at His Teaching; they categorically rejected everything about Him and His Words- they sought to discredit Him; and finally they desired to see how they might destroy Him.

And I don't know about you- but that terrifies me; that makes me very, very concerned that it was the religious elite and the religiously proud; and the religiously sophisticated that was the only group of people in the Bible that Jesus never said anything good about.

Now I want to be clear about something lest you take this wrong. Some could hear what I just said and say, *"See there- I told you it doesn't matter what you believe and I told you that being on the right side of all these issues wasn't the way to go"* and you would miss the entire point of what I just said. And so the crux of what I want to say to you is found in verse 42- so let's read that verse again together:

**But woe to you Pharisees! For you pay tithe of mint and rue and every *kind of* garden herb, and *yet* disregard justice and the love of God; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.**

Look again at the last part of that verse:

**... these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.**

So Jesus did *not* condemn the Pharisees and the scribes and the lawyers because of what they taught. Jesus was not condemning their stance against abortion; or because they wanted the people of God to know the Word of God; or because they taught that homosexuality and adultery and divorce was a sin or because they wanted to set up teaching centers all throughout Israel or because they wanted the Jews to be holy or because they thought that leaders should be men of integrity.

No, Jesus was not condemning them because of their positions or their stand on serious and important issues. Jesus condemned these people because they were trying to do all these things without God; without Grace; without admitting that they were sinners who needed Salvation.

In other words- Jesus was exposing and condemning the fact that these men were trying to earn Righteousness by their own acts. Jesus

was rejecting their effort to earn Salvation by their works; because they were trying to become holy and perfect and pure without being saved; because they had elevated human morality and good deeds and human initiatives and fleshly endeavors and religious rituals and ceremonies as being the same thing as being born again and the same thing as being regenerate and the same thing as being forgiven.

It isn't because these men taught about holiness and righteousness and purity that Jesus condemned them but that they were self-righteous; and proud; and arrogant; and blind to the fact that were lost too. And so these men were hypocrites; they were religious frauds; and because of that- all the right and correct things that they were teaching was entirely evil- because they had left off the most important parts.

So as far as to a lot of what they taught- Jesus said this:

**... these are the things you should have done...**

But then He quickly added the part where they had completely missed the boat:

**... without neglecting the others**

But because they *had* neglected the most important part of the whole thing- because they *had* neglected "the others" they were *entirely* wrong; they were *completely* off base; they were absolutely evil; and therefore- the parts that they had gotten right made no difference to the only One Who matters – and that is God.

And so Jesus condemned them. And he condemned them *totally*; and he condemned them *absolutely*. And I want to make this point again to you- event though I realize that I say this a lot. But this is huge and it will change the way you look at Doctrine and it will alter the way you look at the pursuit of Divine Truth; and it will make you humble because it will put you on your face before God.

Jesus never say to these guys, "*Look, I know you mean well and I know you're trying- but you're just a little bit off on your theology and so let Me help you get on the right path.*" Jesus never said anything even remotely like that to these guys and the fact that He didn't- the fact

that Immanuel- God with us- simply outright; to their face; in public just categorically condemned them all *in totality*- is vital to us today.

Now keep in mind as you read things like this Passage- that Jesus was God's Love personified. Nobody has ever or will ever love like Jesus loved. Jesus' Love was perfect; it was without fault; without degree or measure. Jesus loved perfectly because God is Love and Jesus is God.

So for God's Love personified to utterly reject and categorically condemn and wholesale damn an entire group of people is startling and something that we should all take notice of and take heed of lest God do that to us.

Now it is true that the world simply doesn't understand this. They look at efforts to do good and to be religious as something that is noble and something that we should all have great respect for. And since- to them- Jesus was a religious figure- it would just seem normal to most people that Jesus would respect and affirm other religious people. And it just seems natural that the more religious a person was- the more affirmation and praise you would expect to receive from Jesus. So Passages like this really confuse people who are not born again and have a spiritual mind.

And that would be especially true if you were a religious Jew and you were devoted to the Old Testament Scriptures. And that is an attitude that people outside the Church have today that's growing and becoming huge.

It is becoming enormously popular today- even in the Church- for people to think that all religious people are basically the same- that we all believe basically the same things and that we only disagree on the peripheral issues that really don't matter.

And they don't know that that couldn't be further from the truth because Biblical Christianity stands alone and is unique and set apart and is different from every other man-made religion and human philosophy ever known in very profound and serious and enormous ways.

For example- every false religion from Hinduism to Buddhism to Judaism to Islam all teach a variation of the same thing as it pertains to Salvation- that lost and fallen Man- has to do something to appease the Wrath of God against them and to earn a place in Heaven. And

where they disagree is only in the details of what Man has to do to earn their Salvation.

These man-made religions all teach that it is up to us to put forth human effort to perform works of righteousness and engage in religious ceremonies and rituals that will make them acceptable in God's Eyes.

But Biblical Christianity singularly and alone teaches that lost and fallen Man can't do anything to earn Salvation- precisely because he is fallen- and that every single effort to try to earn God favor is sin.

Christianity says that what Christ did in His sinless life and in His Death and Resurrection- did for us what we cannot do for ourselves and so Christianity teaches that it is faith alone- trust- or belief in what Jesus did for us that saves us. So Christians are saved by Grace and through faith and not by any works. So all the other religions or the world teach that man must "do"- while Christianity teaches- "done".

The Christian Church has taught consecutively for over 2,000 years now that Jesus was not simply a moral religious leader or a teacher; or a humanitarian or a political anarchist or a community organizer or a 1<sup>st</sup> Century hippy- but that Jesus was God Almighty in human flesh; that Jesus was Deity; that Jesus was the Incarnate God and that He lived a perfectly sinless Life and so faith in Him and in His Name and in His righteous Works is what saves a man- not taking Communion; not being baptized; not speaking in tongues; not walking down an aisle; not raising your hand; not by making pilgrimages; not serving in leper colonies; and not by flying airplanes through buildings.

No other religion teaches that Jesus was God except Biblical Christianity- not one. And so we fundamentally disagree on Who Jesus is.

Dear friends- the Bible says that we are saved by Grace alone through Faith alone in the finished Work of Christ alone and not by our works and not by our deeds and not by our actions- and that we come to God- broken and deeply convicted of our sins and deeply humiliated over the realization that we are wicked sinners who are both hopeless and helpless and we beat our chest in agony- realizing that we are not worthy to even look up into heaven and in that state of utter helplessness and utterly brokenness- we confess our sins and we plead for a Mercy that we do not deserve and cannot earn and we cry out for forgiveness that is not owed to us and that we cannot work to obtain and even though God is in no way obligated to even answer our prayer-

the Bible says that by coming to God like that and confessing our sins and by trusting in the finished Work of Jesus Christ- that all our sins are forgiven us and we are saved to the uttermost.

No other religion teaches that- not a single one. And so we fundamentally disagree about how a sinful man is saved.

And yet the lost and pagan world lumps us all in together and they call us, "religious people" or "people of faith" or "social conservatives" or "the religious right".

And because the modern Church has basically abandoned the Gospel and gotten hip deep in politics- more and more- all religious people today are looked at as simply being another voting block and just another segment of society that politicians need to cater to- to get their vote.

Another example where we differ is that the Christian Church believes and teaches that the 66 Books of the Holy Bible are the inspired and infallible and inerrant; authoritative; eternal; and relevant and sufficient Word of the living God and is the "Vox Dei" or the Voice of God in the earth. So if want to hear the Word of God- you read the Bible and if you want to hear the Word of God audibly- you read the Bible out loud.

No other religion teaches that the 66 Books of the Holy Bible is the Word of God- except Biblical Christianity. So we fundamentally disagree with all the other religions of the world about the Scriptures.

And so I pray you can see that true and genuine Christians are fundamentally different about profound and meaningful and serious and eternal issues while we only agree on earthly and temporal and finite issues that pale in comparison to these other things.

So while we agree with some of these other groups about social issues or about politics or about government- we do and we should and we must always keep in mind that these are not our brothers and sisters and we are not all on the same road going into Heaven and that while we certainly pray for their salvation and be happy to preach the Gospel to them- these people are not saved; they are not redeemed and therefore- we are not the same.

And if that offends you- then it is not because what said is wrong- but it is because you simply don't know what the Bible teaches and you are evidently not familiar with that the Christian Church has always taught about this issue. So this is not the rantings of some four-eyed;

flat footed- poe dunk preacher ion South Mississippi- this is Christianity.

Stop and think about this. If what Joel Osteen and others have said and taught on the Hay, Wood, and Stubble Television Network about how that all religions are good and we are all the same and that God sees everybody and we are just one big happy family and that all men are children of God and there is this overreaching and universal "fatherhood of God" and this universal "Brotherhood of all men"- if that is true- then why do we send missionaries into the most dangerous places in the world to preach the Gospel?

Why do these people risk their lives trying to get Buddhists and Muslims and Hindus and atheists and humanists and Jews to repent and trust in Jesus for Salvation? I mean if everybody is already a child of God- why bother? If all religions are the same- why do we want people to convert to Christianity? If it doesn't matter what people believe and it doesn't matter what the Bible says and if it doesn't matter whether Jesus is God or not or how a man is saved- why don't we just bring all these people home? Why did we just take up an offering to support these men and women as they leave the comfort of their homes and go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature?

So the next time you hear about this so-called "Judea-Christian ethic" that supposedly permeates our culture- just understand that what they mean is that the teachings of both the Old and New Testaments are what is the foundation of our legal and judicial and governmental system in this country- that our laws are based on English Common Law and English Common Law is based on the Holy Bible. And so whether they want to acknowledge it or not- the very bedrock of our country is the Holy Scriptures- not that Jews and Christians are on the same page- because we are not.

So even though the world says that all religious people are the same and that we are all linked together in one big happy family- we must know that Jesus did not accept religious people. In fact, He kept His fiercest threats for them.

You see, Jesus was never about sentimentality. Jesus was all about Truth. And Jesus is Truth- personified. He is the living manifestation of the holy Law of God, and as such, He perfectly understood that religion, and spiritual teaching- however well



intentioned- that is contrary to the Truth- comes from hell and it always and in all cases deceives people and sends them to hell too.

Anything belief that differs from Divine Truth is a damning deception that has the greatest power to destroy souls forever because it gives the illusion that all is well. In fact, I would go so far as to say that of all the evils in the world, of all the sins in the world, of all the iniquities in the world, our Lord knew that man-made and false religion was the very worst- especially false Judaism and false Christianity. And that's why the severest eternal judgment will be rendered for the religious people who perverted the Old Testament and who pervert the New Testament today.

The leaders of Jewish religion of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century were perverters of the Old Testament as well as deniers of the Messiah and haters of the Messiah, and eventually manipulated Rome to take His life. They perverted the Old Testament and they rejected its true message and therefore in their spiritual deadness and blindness they were unable to perceive the Truth of the New Covenant and Christ. So the judgment on them is really a result of their own willful rejection.

Now please go back up to verse 14 for a moment. Here Jesus was casting out a demon and it came about that when the demon had gone out of the man- the dumb man spoke and the multitude marveled. But some of them said- and this they said because this had been the lie that had been penetrating their culture which was authored and propagated by the Pharisees and the scribes. This was their spin on Jesus, and they had circulated it in Galilee and in Judea, and it finally took root among the populous.

And so some of them said that Jesus casts out demons by Beelzebul- the ruler of the demons. So their conclusion was that Jesus did what He did by demonic power, by satanic power. That's how far from God they were. When God Almighty in human flesh was in their midst- they thought He was the devil. That is not the way saved and godly people behave. This is not the way that God's people behave.

And down in verse 29- as the crowds were increasing- drawn there by the power of Jesus' miracles and His teaching- Jesus began to say,

**"This generation is a wicked generation."**

So these religious frauds had proved their utter lostness and their

utter sinfulness in the perversion of their own religion and by their rejection of the Messiah- the Son of God Himself. And by Jesus saying this- by Jesus Himself calling them wicked- He was saying in fact that they were worse than the worst of people.

Jesus said that it will be more tolerable in the day of judgment for Sodom and Gomorrah than it would be for Chorazin and Bethsaida and Capernaum. In other words, hell is hotter for the people who rejected Jesus Christ coming out of a perverted Judaism than for the population of Sodom and the cities of the plain who were engaged in the most vile kind of homosexuality, even trying to rape angels.

So man- made religion is not a virtue. Religion that isolates itself from the Holy Scriptures is not to be admired; it is not to be thought well of. Man-made religion is not mankind *ascending* to the highest level of his nobility. Man- made religion and all the ceremonies and all the rituals and all the garments and all the trinkets and all the trappings are simply the most vivid manifestation of the lostness and the fallenness and depravity of mankind- it is man *descending* to his lowest level. It is mankind abandoning the true God.

As I have repeatedly taught you- the very first thing that Adam and Eve did as soon as they fell was to try to earn God's Favor by what they did for themselves. Sewing fig leaves together demonstrates the beginning of all man- made and false religion. Cain ignoring God's Way and trying to worship God in his own way demonstrates the very first false worship and Nimrod inciting the people to build a tower into Heaven demonstrates the beginning of these false and man-made practices becoming organized in the earth and leaving individuals and becoming the foundation of entire nations and civilizations. Please turn with me to read about this in **Romans 1:18-32**:

**18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,**

**19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.**

**20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.**

**21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.**

**22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,**

**23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.**

**24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.**

**25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.**

**26 For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural,**

**27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.**

**28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,**

**29 being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; *they are* <sup>a</sup>gossips,**

**30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,**

**31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;**

**32 and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.**

Now I wish I could stand here and tell you that I was supportive of man- made religion because that would win me a lot of points with the world and probably get me a nice spot on the Federal Government Commission on how sinful man can make himself acceptable to God without Jesus. But I have to stand where my Lord stood about this. Jesus was supportive of the truth- but never human engineered religion.

Now the account in our text today is the story of one of those super religious people. It's the story of a Pharisee who- along with the others

who were Pharisees and all who followed their teaching- needed to be awakened to his true spiritual condition. And this is a tragic story about very religious people, devout, moral, fastidious, scrupulous people who revered the Old Testament- people who lived for ceremony and people who monitored very carefully their public conduct- people who spoke all the time about God.

The Pharisees actually possessed intense moral sensibilities. They had very active consciences that could easily be offended. They had strong religious convictions. And that's why I say to an outside observer- it would just seem to be natural that these people would be Jesus' favorite people- the ones who were most likely to be accepted by Him and Him by them.

These *should* have been the most eager to repent, the most eager to believe, and the most eager to enter the Kingdom. But just the opposite was true. And so Jesus condemned them. And Jesus said He could identify with the prostitutes and the tax collectors and the scum and the riff-raff before He could identify with the Pharisees and the people who followed them. And it was these people that Jesus had in mind when He said in **Luke 5:32**:

**I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.**

You see, false man- made religion blinds people to the Truth. Self-righteous works systems- which all of the world's religions are- feed and promote human pride and it feeds vanity and it always produces hypocrites.

And the Pharisees are the greatest Biblical examples of this because they were the most devout among the Jews. They were the main spiritual examples for the people. Yet their warped and distorted interpretation of the Old Testament cut them off from God completely.

In fact, Jesus said to them, *"You're of your father, the devil, and the reason you don't know Me is because you're of your father the devil."*

Now what is amazing is that I don't think for a second that they sought to be hypocrites. I don't think all people who fall into false religion pursue those religions in order that they might become deceived and end up as hypocrites. But that is what always happens. You just end up there. And all people in all false religions are hypocrites. They are religious on the outside- but they remain evil on the inside because

the only thing that can change the inside is the Power of God in Salvation through belief in the Gospel. And so they're all hypocrites to one degree or another. They're making a better show than what's really going on inside. And that's what all man-made religion does. Religious people become highly skilled at covering their corruption with external morality and ritual because it's all they can do.

Now the religion of the Pharisees was an empty deception: no love for God, no work of the Holy Spirit, no knowledge of the truth, no genuine righteousness, no real repentance--they were actors. **Matthew 23** records a latter assault by the Pharisees by Jesus in which He said things like this:

- ✓ "Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites," (**Matthew 23:23**)
- ✓ "Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites..." (**Matthew 23:25**)
- ✓ "Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites." (**Matthew 23:27**)
- ✓ "Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites." (**Matthew 23:29**)

... and then he ended it up by saying this in **Matthew 23:33**:

**You serpents, you brood of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of hell?**

Well, I don't know about you- but maybe Jesus wasn't too pleased with these guys.

So all false religion is a kind of hypocrisy; it's a covering; it's a game you play on the outside. You're creating an illusion because it isn't like anybody who follows these false religions ever actually got to heaven; it isn't like any of them actually do earn God's Favor; it isn't like any of them actually do work their way into Heaven.

So by definition- all false religions are a lie; they deceive people and they send them to hell. And they do this precisely because they *never* work and they never work because they *can't* work and they can't work because they are not of the Truth.

And it is very important for us to know that religious people can't be converted until they realize the hypocrisy of what they're involved in. So this is a lesson on how to evangelize religious people- one of the very best in the entire Bible and the Lord gave a lot of these because He evangelized a lot of these self-righteous religious people one on one.

And while this is a great illustration of how you evangelize religious people- don't expect a lot of good results. Please drop down for a moment to verses 53&54:

**53 When He left there, the scribes and the Pharisees began to be very hostile and to question Him closely on many subjects,**  
**54 plotting against Him to catch *Him* in something He might say.**

And that just reinforces the point that people who follow humanly engineered religions become so adept to the hypocrisy that they do not yield it up easily. And rather than repent of their hypocrisy- they turn up their hatred for the one who confronts them and they are successful in having Him removed.

Now as we look at the story, you're going to see the state of apostate Judaism in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century. You're going to see the very character and nature of man-made legalistic Judaistic Pharisaism.

But I want you to go beyond that. I want you to see an example of all false religion and how they all operate and how they all function in its blinding, iniquitous, deceptive hypocrisy.

Religious hypocrites with unchanged hearts cut off from God are left to do nothing but be hypocrites. And we're very familiar with it, whether you're talking about the Greek Orthodox movement or Anglo-Catholicism, Hindus, or Muslims or Mormons or Jehovah's Witnesses-- whatever you're talking about. It's the same kind of thing; it's all for show and absent of any reality.

Their religion was purely *external*. And what happens is this: in order to live out their false and man-made religion and put on a convincing show- they always have to elaborate the external; they have to magnify the external; they have to enlarge and draw attention to the external- to their rituals and to their robes and to their ceremonies and so you expand the emblems; you expand the functions; you expand the ceremonies; you expand the rituals; you proliferate the prescriptions.

And that's exactly what the Jews had done--way beyond the Old Testament. And the Pharisees lived for these rites and rituals and ceremonies. And the Lord knew you could get this guy's attention by violating one of them. And that's exactly what He did. Look again at verse 37.

**Now when He had spoken, a Pharisee asked Him to have lunch with him; and He went in, and reclined *at the table*.**

Let's pray