

THE KING WE NEED

Discussion Guide: Religious Hypocrisy

Passage: Luke 11:37-54

Summary: After speaking of those who are full of darkness, Jesus sheds light on the hypocrisy of the religious leaders and warns them of the judgment to come. While it's easy to cast the religious leaders as bad guys, we'll find that we may have much more in common with them than we realize.

Discussion

As he was invited to a meal by a Pharisee, Jesus gave seven warnings to the leaders around the table with Him. Take a moment together to recall these seven warnings and pick two or three to discuss in more depth. Prioritize introspection and vulnerability over talking about "other leaders."

1. A Warning to Leaders Who Focus on Image Over Their Spiritual Health
How do we prioritize our image over the health of our heart?
2. A Warning to Leaders Who Pursue Control Over Surrender
How do we try to manipulate or control God through our "Christian actions"?
3. A Warning to Leaders Who Practice Self-Promotion Over Service
How does leadership become a way of pursuing affirmation?
4. A Warning to Leaders Who Embrace Hiding Over Honesty
How can we "hide" our unhealthy hearts behind doctrine, gifting, or ministry impact? Why is confession so important and how do we practice it?
5. A Warning to Leaders Who Burden People and are Unwilling to Help Them
How do we focus on right doctrine or truth and miss loving people?
6. A Warning to Leaders Who Refuse to Be Challenged
How do we cultivate soft hearts that listen to others?
7. A Warning to Leaders Who Block the Way to Jesus
How does our own spiritual sickness hurt others we lead?

We first need to look at ourselves. Which of these warnings is Jesus inviting you to hear and heed?

How might Jesus' words be helpful to those who have been hurt by leaders?

Take time to pray for each other.