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#### RELATED SCRIPTURES

Matthew 23:23–24 | Micah 6:8 | Ezekiel 36:25–27

#### STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 5.10.26

#### SUMMARY

All sin grieves the Lord, but it seemed that Jesus had a special disdain for the sin of hypocrisy. Hypocrisy is the pretense of displaying greater righteousness than we actually possess—pretending we are more holy than we actually are. In Luke 11:37, Jesus encounters a Pharisee who is himself displaying a bit of hypocrisy. He invites Jesus to dinner, not because he sees him as an honored guest; instead, he sets a trap for Jesus. He accuses Jesus of failing to observe a cleansing ritual, which was a ritual imposed by the Pharisees, not by the law of God. While this Pharisee might have clean hands, Jesus questions the cleanness of his heart. Jesus illustrates this through the practice of giving (vs. 40–42). The Pharisees were meticulous in their tithing. They gave 10 percent of all their produce, not cheating God out of anything insofar as the tithe was concerned. Even if a Pharisee found a piece of mint along the road, they took one-tenth of it and gave it to God. Their ritual practice—what shows on the outside—was without fault. But Jesus was more concerned with the weightier things the Pharisees neglected—matters much more important than tithing as a ritual. Jesus' point is not that we shouldn't tithe; he even says, "These things you ought to have done," but adds, "without neglecting the others" (v. 42). In other words, if we tithe but don't concern ourselves with matters like justice, kindness, and humility (Micah 6:8), it's an indicator that something is out of order. When the Lord gives us a new heart, it invariably causes us to walk in his ways (Ezekiel 36:25–27) and not just obey some of his laws, but to find delight in all of them, whether they be "easy" or "weighty." May the Church be people who walk in the ways of Christ, a people of truth and righteousness.

#### GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of Luke 11:37-42.

What are some ways we can turn our faith into ritual? Are there things we do for the sake of "checking a box" and miss the importance behind it? What are some of those things, and how do we reframe them to not just be ritual?

What does this passage teach us about our giving? What is our primary motivation for giving? What can we do if we don't find delight in giving?

If there's one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

#### CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today's themes in what you bring before God.