

The Pharisees attempted to establish their own righteousness, one that came from doing good deeds. Jesus taught that truly righteous people have an internal purity of the heart that is manifest in external behavior. True righteousness is imputed to us when we repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 3:21-22, 4:22-25; 2 Corinthians 5:21). “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.” Luke 12:1 (NAS)

I. The text explained:

- A. The condition and motive of the heart
- B. The meaning of hypocrite
- C. The practice of spiritual disciplines
- D. The reality of rewards

II. The text applied:

- A. The condition of your heart matters most to God.
- B. The condition of your heart will be the primary motive for why you fulfill spiritual disciplines.

“God does not encourage us to be meticulous in our efforts to hide our good deeds. The doing of deeds for the purpose of praise or merit is what is being criticized.”
- C. The condition of your heart will determine your rewards.