Biblical Literature II—New Testament

Unit 6 “Lessons in Living the Christian Life”

Lesson 03 “Lessons about Self-Righteousness”

Name: Hour:

Jesus preached that he is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. There is no way to the Father except through him. Many Jews, however, begged to differ. Led by the Pharisees, they were quite sure they could find their own way to the Father. While at the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem, the Jews explained why they didn’t need Jesus, and Jesus explained to them why they did.

[**Read John 8:31-39**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%208:31-39&version=NIV)

1. Jesus had just explained that his truth would give the Jews freedom. What kind of freedom did Jesus mean?

2. The Jews insisted they did not need his freedom, for they were not slaves of anyone. After all, they were Abraham’s descendants! In what way was their claim true? In what way was it false?

a.

b.

3. What did they believe their heritage would do for them?

4. How do people in the 21st Century reflect the same kind of thinking as the Jews in Jesus day?

**a.**

**b.**

**c.**

**d.**

5. How does having a spiritual heritage—a supportive Christian family, church family, and Christian friends…

a. help you?

b. How does it not help you?

6. What do self-righteous people think will save them?

The Jews thought they were a superior people not only because of their heritage but also because of their behavior. The Pharisees especially prided themselves on their obedience to all the laws God had given Moses—and to the extra laws and traditions they themselves had created. But in the face of their so-called piety, Jesus said, “Woe to you!”

[**Read Matthew 23:1-39**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2023:1-39&version=NIV) **“The Truth about the Pharisees!”**

7. Why did Jesus tell His hearers “to not do what the Pharisees do”?

8. Why do the Pharisees do what they do?

9. What do they do with their “[phylacteries](http://www.memidex.com/phylacteries) (click on the link to find out the meaning) and tassels”?

10. What did the Pharisees like to be called by the masses?

11. Why should they not be called “instructors”?

12. What will happen to those who “exalt” themselves?

13. Jesus shares that the Pharisee will travel near and far to “win a single convert” but in the process what have they made the convert?

14. What did Jesus say is more important than following the laws about tithing, for example?

15. Why are they called “blind guides”?

16. How were the Pharisees like half-clean cups and whitewashed tombs?

17. With what kind of animal does Jesus compare the Pharisees?

18. How did Jesus “long to gather” the people of Jerusalem and didn’t He do it?

[**Read Mark 7:5-8**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%207:5-8&version=NIV)

19. What did Jesus say about the Pharisees when the Pharisees criticized Jesus’ disciples for not following tradition?

a.

b.

c.

d.

20. The Pharisees made up their own rules, in addition to God’s law, about how to live good lives. Make a list of some man-made rules that religious people make up today?

a.

b.

c.

[**Read Matthew 22:36-40**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2022:34-40&version=MSG)

21. Why are the Pharisees emboldened to act against Jesus?

22. Why did the Pharisees pose a question to Jesus?

23. Why was their question, “Teacher, which command in God’s Law is the most important?” a trick question?

24. How does Jesus answer avoid the Pharisee’s trap?

If the Pharisees—and self-righteous people in any generation—insist on trying to save themselves through their own obedience, Jesus has news for them.

[**Read Matthew 5:17-20,48**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%205:17-20,%2048&version=NIV)

25. What great truth about the law did Jesus preach?

a.

b.

c.

26. What then was the problem for the Pharisees—and for us?

27. Why won’t self-righteous people be saved?

Jesus accused the Pharisees of being whitewashed tombs—looking clean and beautiful on the outside but being spiritually polluted and dead on the inside. They surely looked holy as they kept God’s law (and a host of other laws they and their ancestors had created), but they had no true love for God in their hearts. Read the following passages, and answer the questions to see how we become truly clean, inside and out.

[**Read Matthew 15:19-20**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2015:19-20&version=NIV)

28. Why are we dirty on the inside?

[**Read Isaiah 64:6a**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2064:6&version=NIV)

**29.** What is wrong with even our good works?

[**Read Psalm 51:1-2, 10, 12a,**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2051:1-2,%2010,%2012a&version=NIV)

**30.** What do we ask God to do for us?

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

[**Read Revelation 7:14b**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%207:14&version=NIV)

31. In what do we wash our sinful selves and what are the amazing results?

[**Read Isaiah 1:18**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%201:18&version=NIV)

**32.** Which of our sins are too serious to be washed away?

**Pictorial Project of the Journey from “Filth to Faith”!**

**a. Create a visual of pictures and images that show our life before Christ in the filth**

**of our Sin and then how in Christ we are cleansed and made whole.**

**b. Create your visual using** [**“Slide Rocket”**](http://www.sliderocket.com/) **so that you can use the transition and animation effects to show how our life has been changed.**

**c. Use sound or music to enhance your slide’s affect.**

**d. Include your name on the title slide.**

**e. Have your slide run automatic after the initial mouse click.**

**f. Be creative and dramatic in your creation.**

**g. Use the following** [**“hot link”**](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dDdMbUMyTjFuQ2Nwcl9ycFJLR1M2TEE6MA) **to copy and paste the “embed code” and the “public link code” of your project. I will then show them to the entire class.**

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