The Danger of an Empty Heart (Luke 11:23-26)

Tony Mauck · Luke 11:23–26

INTRODUCTION

- You're either for me or against me. No neutral ground exists here.
- Once the grip and power of evil is removed, the moral vacuum must be filled by God and goodness.
- If we reject the source from which salvation comes, there isn't another.

1 The Obstacle of External Righteousness

Matthew 23:15; Matthew 9:12–13

- The Pharisees had a warped sense of goodness.
- While there were many good things about their lives, they left the most critical things undone that related to matters of the heart.
- It is not those who are healthy that need a physician, but those who are sick.
- He wants sacrifices that emanate from within a person and are not just some kind of external compliance with rules where the heart is not really engaged.
- We need to be careful that our religion isn't reduced to the keeping of some externals.

2 Removal of Some Sins Is Not Final Triumph

Romans 12:3; James 3:10; James 1:26–27

- The removal of some sins should not be confused with a final triumph over all sin.
- One victory does not equate necessarily to the winning of the war.
- We are not necessarily okay because we shun worship innovation.
- We resist lust. And yet we take the bait of self-righteousness.
- If a man doesn't bridle his tongue, his religion is vain.
- Spiritual success does not mean that we can let our guard down in terms of how Satan wants to control and use us.

3 Negative Religion Alone Cannot Keep a Man Clean

2 Timothy 2:22; Galatians 5:19–22

- Any religious system that merely tells a man what he must not do is insufficient.
- Flee youthful lusts. And pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace with those who call on the Lord with a pure heart.
- We need to hate divorce and adulterous remarriage. But we also need to be promoting attitudes and conduct that produce good marriages.
- Avoid division, yes, but fervently endeavor to keep unity.

- It’s not just about what we’re against. It’s about what we’re for.

4 Blinding Self-Righteousness Made Them Vulnerable to Satan

- The blinding self-righteousness of the Pharisees made them vulnerable to Satan’s greatest control.
- They rejected Jesus despite irrefutable evidence that he had come from God.
- They had no inkling whatsoever that Satan was in control of their hearts, and they did the unimaginable. They killed the Son of God.

THE CHALLENGE

Fill your heart with the heart of Christ and His righteousness and never settle for less in your pursuit of that goal.

MY NOTES