

In Jesus' day, the scribes and Pharisees were hypocrites who concentrated on the appearance of holiness while neglecting heart-holiness (Mt. 23:25). When the light of Jesus shone on them, He revealed the truth about their outwardly religious life. He didn't say these external acts were necessarily wrong, but they were wrongfully used as a cover up for wickedness. For them, inner house cleaning was long overdue.

Keeping up appearances in our housework isn't serious, but pretending our hearts are clean is. Only those who are clean on the inside will welcome Jesus with confidence when He returns. Is your heart ready, or is inner house cleaning needed? Now is the time to take care of it! --JEY

Thinking It Over

What is the only way to get a clean heart? (Titus 3:3-6).

*After we have put our faith in Jesus Christ (John 3:16),
how do we keep our heart clean? (1 John 1:9).*

At the heart of holiness is holiness of the heart.



P.S. Tables don't matter; hearts do.

Central Mountains Baptist Church

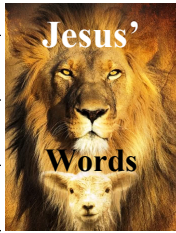
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Housekeeping Of The Heart

You also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. --Matthew 23:28

As a young home maker, I enjoyed cleaning our house from top to bottom. The trouble was, it never stayed clean for long. Eventually I discovered that if I kept our house reasonably tidy, it appeared to be clean even when it wasn't. Gradually I concentrated more on the appearance of a clean house and neglected thorough cleaning. This compromise was not only convenient, it was convincing. Sometimes even I was fooled, until one sunny day when my clean-looking house was revealed for what it was--dusty and dirty!





Purifying the Church

(Ephesians 6:12) *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

(Job 1:11) *But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"*

(Matthew 13:20-21) *But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; [21] yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.*

(Hebrews 10:24-25) *And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, [25] not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

(Hebrews 2:14-15) *Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, [15] and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*



In Luke 11:5-8, 27-28, 37-54 there are 8 contrasts between the sheep and the goats (which are all initially assumed to be God's people). These contrasts regard:

1. _____, verses 5-8, 13, 2-4

(Ephesians 3:20-21) *Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, [21] to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

(Matthew 6:7) *And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they*

think that they will be heard for their many words.



Sheep or Goats

2. _____, verses 27-28

3. _____, verses 37-42

(Mark 7:3) *For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands in a special way, holding the tradition of the elders.*

(Luke 11:41) *But give for alms those things which are within; and behold, all things are clean unto you. (ASV)*

(Luke 11:41) *Nevertheless give what is inside as alms; and see, all things are clean to you. (EMTV)*

(Luke 11:41) *But give as alms those things that are within, and behold, everything is clean for you. (ESV)*



?Environmentally Friendly

(Matthew 25:41) *"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:*

(Matthew 25:46) *And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."*