

Scriptures and Doctrine :: Hey Pharisees!

Hey Pharisees! - posted by Solomon101, on: 2013/2/18 21:47

HEY PHARISEES!

And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret. And when the men of that place recognized him, they sent around to all that region and brought to him all who were sick and implored him that they might only touch the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.

Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat." MATTHEW 14:34 - 15:2 ESV

DO YOU SEE IT?! Jesus the Son of God heals the sick. The long awaited Messiah brings deliverance to the captives and release to the oppressed. Glory and honor to God! The time of fulfillment is at hand. Israel's prayers are finally being answered. The long night of suffering is finally coming to an end. Jesus the Savior is here! The Lord is visiting His people.

The scene is almost indescribable. A man who was lame leaps for joy, dancing and skipping with laughter. A father holds his children in his arms and sobs uncontrollably: His blind eyes have been opened! For the first time in years, he can see the faces of his precious little ones. Another man shouts, "I'm clean! I'm clean!" His leprosy has vanished in an instant. A young mother falls to her knees in worship. Her daughter is whole again. The promised deliverer has come.

But that's not what these Pharisees saw. Jesus was breaking their religious traditions! "Your disciples don't wash their hands before they eat!" Who cares about miracles? Who cares about the mighty moving of the Spirit? Who cares about the tangible demonstration of the power of God? Who cares about all the desperate people being touched? He's violating our customs; He can't be from God. Our traditions go back for generations! Who does He think He is?

That, my friends, is a hypocritical religious spirit.

adapted from Dr. Michael L Brown's writings on the subject

How will you do in the same circumstance? When God shows up in mighty Holy Spirit delivering power but does so through people and in ways you were not expecting how will you respond?

Father in Heaven, may we have so much of your heart and love for people that we always rejoice to see them delivered and brought into your presence. May that be so whether we particularly like the way it happens or not, whether we "like" the person deliverance comes through or not, if it comes through a child, senior citizen, parent or teen, in a place that is not "churchy" looking, whether the person has a new suit or torn jeans and a ripped leather coat, whether they are clear skinned or covered in tattoos, whether they are black, white, brown, red, or yellow, whether they are male or female, whether they have gauge holes in their ears or no holes at all, whether they are using older hymns or whether it is rock n roll and "screamo" that I can hardly understand the words of, let me be mature enough to not be a pharisee letting my traditions become so engrained that I mistake them for your will....Dear Father may we recognize days of visitation and Holy Spirit anointing that are genuinely from you no matter who and what methods you choose to use!

Destroy the Pharisee spirit so that people may be free to serve and receive from You!

Re: Hey Pharisees!, on: 2013/2/19 3:41

Quote:

-----How will you do in the same circumstance? When God shows up in mighty Holy Spirit delivering power but does so through people and in ways you were not expecting how will you respond? solomon101

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If Jesus had been in appearance almost any of the list which you have listed below other than that of having the appearance

nce of a poor man He would not have been received at all. Your perception of what constitutes a pharisee seems to be well short of the mark of what in the end proved to be a murderous spirit which demanded the crucifixion of an innocent man in the face of a judge who wanted to let Him go. Read the scriptures brother. The pharisee was not simply a hypocrite. Had that been the true mark of a pharisee we would all become pharisees as we are all capable of hypocrisy ourselves. Hypocrisy is a fruit of the flesh which ALL men have a part in and not the preserve of a few.

The rational of your gospel is eclectic acceptance of every kind of fleshy ungodliness in total contradiction of God's will for men, which is that they lead a holy and blameless life, and not persists in their ungodliness excusing it by vainly imagining that fleshy attitudes and practises have no consequence or reality because God is greater than these things. Well brother I have to tell you that the only men and women I have heard of who really produce the fruit of godliness in others, do so by example and not by vain philosophy.

Apart from that you may have no idea who you are pressing when you say "destroy the pharisee spirit so that people may be free to serve and receive from you". Let me ask you brother. Have you slept with harlots? Have you stolen? Have you lied? Have you been sent to prison for your crimes? Have you lied to the judge? Have you defrauded the widow? Or have you pressed your mind to destruction with drugs? Have you blasphemed God in the hearing of men? Have you laid waste to the innocent? Have you railed against all authority? Have you cursed the Governor and his ministers? Have you given your body which for the believer is a temple of the Holy Spirit over to uncleanness? Do you mark it with the marks of wild beasts and glory in them? Do you pierce the flesh with iron and vain gold and silver a thing which the heathen do understanding rightly that it is a celebration of the unclean spirits of the age which they yet serve?

If you had and Christ had come to you in the manner which you speak of at the beginning of this post, you would know the reality of turning away from all of these things and why it is foolish to boast in them before men, which example has set even inexperienced youth to imitate wickedness in our day believing that it is cool. By it some men are barely saved yet by philosophy of appearance and vain reason press on to make disciples after their own fleshy minds.

**Re: - posted by Solomon101, on: 2013/2/19 10:27**

Wow.... with only one post in response my point seems proved and exemplified.

You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel! Matt 23:24 ESV

Remarkably you have made quite clear that you would not receive deliverance from the very hand of God if he chose to send it through a vessel that had any of the outer marks you consider blemishes. That IS a pharisee spirit. That is why in all probability you are now going to face an issue that you will not find deliverance over. God will eventually send deliverance... but through someone that you reject simply based on outer looks and your own prejudice. They are the hand extended to help you... but you have cut that part of Christ's body off. It is the ancient Jew rejecting deliverance simply because it came through a Samaritan. Same issue in our day. Therefore your answers will not come until you can change your heart to see people deeper than you currently do. I fear you do not recognize your day of visitation because it does not come through one you deem worthy. However, Christ's blood has made them worthy regardless of your dismissal of them. Jerusalem made the same mistake. I am sure you recall the scripture.

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Matt 23:25 ESV

You are obviously very concerned about cleaning the outside of the cup. You have posted many, many times about it on SI. Interestingly Jesus appears to have little to no concern over it as he never actually mentioned it once in the Gospels.

From your posts it is clear that you look a great deal on the outward man... but God looks on the heart. Therein you are damaging yourself by being so narrowly focused on the outward.

It is the most common of spiritual errors. Letting whatever traditions I have become comfortable with get so engrained that I mistake them for God's will.

The only defense a person then has, if they are pharisaically bent, is to say, "Well, if you were as spiritual as me then you would agree with me". Same ole same ole.

The Pharisees exemplified this when the man who was born blind would not answer according to their preconceived ideas. You may recall when they questioned him in John 9-

Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.Â” They answered him, Â”You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?Â” And they cast him out. John 9:32-34 ESV

Yeah....you don't meet our criteria. You have nothing to share or reveal to us. We have the answers and if yours don't agree then you are wrong. If you were as spiritual as us you would agree with us.

HOGWASH!

Jesus then rejected the spiritual know it alls and revealed Himself to the one no one else believed was good enough. He was the one who actually knew God far better. Same is often true today.

**Re: - posted by SkepticGuy, on: 2013/2/19 11:08**

there is a lot of pharisaism and judgementalism going on here 2day. very timely post, solomon.

**Re: Hey Pharisees!, on: 2013/2/19 11:25**

Well brother it may surprise you to learn that my concern is not with the outer garment but with the inner reality of Christ coming to light. If I were writing from a simple position of being perfect in the outer man I may still not be a pharisee as you believe me to be. As it is I bear all the marks in my own body which many believers today make a thing to boast in. This includes physical scars, tattoos, and the ability to exercise a course manner, as these things are perceived. To my shame I have also practised all of the things I listed in my last post as an unbeliever and worse still than those things as well. I came to Christ in prison and rejoice in the fact that Christ was not ashamed of me but revealed Himself in the manner of knowing Him in person and by sight both in the body and in the spirit. But I do understand your thinking otherwise. It will always be this way and no amount of posting will change this reality.

In nearly three decades the balance has always been knowing the love of God and knowing the righteous demands of God. It is not one or the other it is both. I have witnessed numbers of believers openly boasting in their former devices and thereby have they caused many to stumble because their boast was not in the end in Christ who saves His people from their sins, but in the flesh which made it necessary. Such an attitude is foolishness and demonstrates a lack of knowledge of the holiness and righteousness of God. I am not angry with you brother and hold no offence at all. I really do understand what you are driving at. My concern however is not with appearance but with what I witness and have witnessed many times when those who take the Lord's name do not reject all outward and inward natural inclinations of the flesh and show by their outward conduct, manner and appearance that they comprehend what is meant by a fleshy mind. The only way to do this is to put off the visibility of tattoos, styles and manners of dress which have their roots in rebellion as well as music and speech which have their roots in rebellion and many other such things.

When I came out of prison in the 1980's I refused to be held aloft, even as others I witnessed embraced it. I warned them at the time to flee from such boastings and to comprehend that of all things their former sins and attitudes were not a thing to boast in. Today by God's grace there is not a trace of visibility of my former life and attitude to be seen, though I do not for that deceive myself into thinking I am become a righteous man because I guard my speech or cover my scars and tattoos. By God's grace I have been raised up above all of my fellows, including the ones who having the same testimony as my own, thought to be raised up by that means. This is the very opposite of what is meant by a pharisee. It is not the outer garment which concerns me brother but inner reality and the testimony of Christ to save His people from all of their sins.

As for the rest! Let the man come! If he is sincere I will receive him in the Lord's name. If he is not he will find that I already understand how to deal with him!

**Re: Hey Pharisees! - posted by proudpapa, on: 2013/2/19 11:33**

I am reminded of several years ago while driving to church, My old junky looking pickup threw a U joint, I was stranded on the side of a rural road between two towns both about 20 miles away.

All I needed was a wrench (probably about a half inch or so) I thought to myself, well this is fine, there are good churches in both towns and good church people driving by, some good christian will surely stop. NO, NO they did not.

You could tell by what they were driving by what they were wearing, where they were heading, many many confessing christians drove by, but they were into big of a hurry and probably to fearful to stop and ask if there was anything they could do to help.

What would bro so and so think if they made it to church a few minutes late or what about the reality that you just can not trust anyone these days, they could have been robbed of their precious Valuables.

Oh the many pharasical excuses that must have ran through their heads has they passed.

Well as the church crowd made it to church and I began to ponder how I would fix my truck.

An old junky pickup pulled up, a rough looking character (probably had tatoos!) got out and helped me, He was heading to work but his work was not so important that he could not stop to help someone stranded on side of the road.

This man was working on Sunday, not only that but he was working on the Heating and air of a new liquor store that was being built.

What a sinner, but what more of a neighbor this sinner was than all of those self righteous pharisees that passed.

**Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2013/2/19 11:37**

by amrkelly

In nearly three decades the balance has always been knowing the love of God and knowing the righteous demands of God. It is not one or the other it is both. I have witnessed numbers of believers openly boasting in their former devices and thereby have they caused many to stumble because their boast was not in the end in Christ who saves His people from their sins, but in the flesh which made it necessary. Such an attitude is foolishness and demonstrates a lack of knowledge of the holiness and righteousness of God.

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Greetings

There is much in what you have shared here to pray over. I have felt conviction of late as I was retelling a story to another about some past sin. I stopped half way through feeling convicted and at once realized that the attitude of my heart was not brokenness for the offense I had caused to my beloved Savior but rather of boasting and even almost glamorizing what I had done. I had to stop in that moment and just repent to HIM and to the person for any kind of stumbling block my words might have become. You are right GOD does love us but HE also expects us to be HOLY as HE is HOLY...and by HIS strength one is able!

God bless  
mj

**Re: - posted by SkepticGuy, on: 2013/2/19 11:56**

proud papa, we really should be careful not to set ourselves up as judge and jury over other men's hearts. perhaps your assessment of these church folk was correct, but perhaps not. i'll be honest, if i am in my car w/my wife and daughter i do not stop of people stranded on the road. u just cant do that these days. perhaps these people that passed u were not headed 2 church, but perhaps a funeral instead. how do u know? if a funeral then i would not expect them to stop. ur sarcasm of these people reveals ur heart. instead of being scornful to those people (who's hearts u do not know), why not just be thankful 4 the one man who god sent ur way to help u, and just shut up about the rest? why after all this time do u even bring it up? it reveals a struggle within ur own heart with unforgiveness.

**- posted by proudpapa, on: 2013/2/19 12:06**

It is odd how clear that we can see the smote in our brothers eye but how difficult it is to see the beam in our own eye.

**Re: - posted by SkepticGuy, on: 2013/2/19 12:50**

Quote:

-----It is odd how clear that we can see the smote in our brothers eye but how difficult it is to see the beam in our own eye.  
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yes, exactly. thank you. thats exactly my point about what you wrote about those church folk. perhaps one day you will see my point.