

THE DUST OF THE RABBI

The Heart of the Matter

Matthew 23:25-28

The Heart of the Matter - **to make us holy!**

What Doesn't Make You Holy!

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, "The teachers of religious law and the Pharisees are the official interpreters of the law of Moses. So practice and obey whatever they tell you, but **don't follow their example**. For they don't practice what they teach. (Matthew 23:1-3, NLT)

Religion is a system of beliefs and practices for the pursuit of the god(s).

Religion doesn't make you holy, but it can make you a **hypocrite**.

"What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. **Hypocrites!** For you are so careful to **clean the outside** of the cup and the dish, but **inside you are filthy**—full of greed and self-indulgence! (Matthew 23:25, NLT)

"How will you escape being **condemned to hell?**" (Matthew 23:33, NIV)

What Does Makes You Holy!

(1) Come **Clean**.

"You **blind Pharisee!**" (Matthew 23:25-26, NLT)

You can only become as **holy** as you are **honest**.

(2) Be **Clean**.

"You **blind Pharisee!** First **wash the inside** of the cup and the dish, and then the outside will become clean, too." (Matthew 23:25-26, NLT)

You change your **mind** (repentance) and Jesus will change your **heart**.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life. (Ps 139:23-24, NLT)

Turn your heart **purely** to Jesus and Jesus will turn your heart **pure**.

But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. (1 John 1:9, NLT)

(3) Stay **Clean**.

"What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like **whitewashed tombs**—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with **dead** people's bones and all sorts of **impurity**. Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with **hypocrisy** and **lawlessness**." (Matthew 23:27-28, NLT)

As we **surrender** our lives **entirely** to the Lord, He will "**sanctify**" through His **Holy Spirit**.

As we allow the Holy Spirit to **fill us daily**, He **exposes** and **expels** our **imperfections!**

The heart of the matter is a matter of the heart becoming **holy!**