

Jesus's Heart for Hypocrites
Matthew 23:37-39

Hypocrisy is the opposite of wholeness.

“No man, for any considerable period, can wear one face to himself and another to the multitude, without finally getting bewildered as to which may be the true.”

Nathaniel Hawthorne

Where there is rampant hypocrisy, there will be a lack of:

Where there is rampant hypocrisy, there will be a lack of:
transparency

Where there is rampant hypocrisy, there will be a lack of:
transparency
teachability

Where there is rampant hypocrisy, there will be a lack of:

- transparency
- teachability
- spiritual priority

Where there is rampant hypocrisy, there will be a lack of:

- transparency
- teachability
- spiritual priority
- giving and receiving mercy

Where there is rampant hypocrisy, there will be a lack of:

- transparency
- teachability
- spiritual priority
- giving and receiving mercy
- grace

Where there is rampant hypocrisy, there will be a lack of:

- transparency
- teachability
- spiritual priority
- giving and receiving mercy
- grace
- humility

Where there is rampant hypocrisy, there will be a lack of:

- transparency
- teachability
- spiritual priority
- giving and receiving mercy
- grace
- humility
- compassion

Where there is rampant hypocrisy, there will be a lack of:

transparency

teachability

spiritual priority

giving and receiving mercy

grace

humility

compassion

true justice

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spiritual priority

giving and receiving mercy

grace

humility

compassion

true justice

authentic worship

Level 1 - The **universal** hypocrite . . .
includes every human being.

Level 2 - The **self-deceived** hypocrite . . .
constructs a self-image that hides the failure
even from ourselves.

Level 3 - The **performative** hypocrite . . .
attempts to curate a false image.

Level 4 - The **weaponized** hypocrite . . .
uses righteousness as a tool of power.

Level 5 - The **diabolical** hypocrite . . .

Satan masquerading as an angel of light.

1. Hypocrisy warrants **grief**.

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“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it!

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“How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!” (37)

“On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’

“And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

Matthew 7:22-23

“But the Lord answered her, ‘Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things.’”

Luke 10:41

“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat.”

Luke 22:31

“Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?”

Acts 9:4b

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken
me?”

Matthew 27:46b

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem . . .”

Matthew 23:37a

“Cry aloud; do not hold back; lift up your voice like a trumpet; declare to my people their transgression, to the house of Jacob their sins.

“Yet they seek me daily and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that did righteousness and did not forsake the judgment of their God;

“they ask of me righteous judgments; they
delight to draw near to God.

“Why have we fasted, and you see it not?
Why have we humbled ourselves, and you
take no knowledge of it?’

“Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers. Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist.

“Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself?

“Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and
to spread sackcloth and ashes under him?
Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable
to the LORD?”

Isaiah 58:1-5

“. . . the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it!” (37b)

“Will you steal, murder, commit adultery,
swear falsely, make offerings to Baal . . .

“and then come and stand before me in this house . . . and say, ‘We are delivered!’?”

Jeremiah 7:9a, 10a

“... this people draw near with their mouth
and honor me with their lips, while their
hearts are far from me,”

Isaiah 29:13b

1. Hypocrisy warrants grief.
2. Hypocrisy warrants **judgment**.

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“See, your house is left to you desolate.” (38)

1. Hypocrisy warrants grief.
2. Hypocrisy warrants judgment.
3. Hypocrisy warrants **hope**.

“For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’” (39)

Level 1 - the **disciples** who fell asleep, fled,
and failed

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Level 2 - the **rich young ruler** who walked
away

Level 3&4 - **Joseph of Arimathea**, a member
of the council that condemned Jesus

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Level 5 - **Judas** in the garden

What does the return of Christ mean?

It means being **fully known** and **fully loved**
at the same time.

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at the same time.

“... then I shall know fully, even as I have
been fully known.” 1 Corinthians 13:12b

It means the **image of God fully restored.**

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“. . . conformed to the image of his Son,”

Romans 8:29b

It means the **image of God fully restored**.

“we shall be like him, because we shall see
him as he is.”

1 John 3:2b

It means **authentic worship**.

It means a community defined by
transparency rather than performance.