

In God's Eyes

Luke 11:37-54

Silent Killers

Something invisible yet deadly
What are some examples related to...

- Physical wellbeing?
- Emotional wellbeing?
- Spiritual wellbeing?

We invite God to help us see the great danger of silent killers in our hearts...
Hebrews 4:12-13

Luke

Luke's big purpose
Shape us as genuine disciples (followers) of Jesus Christ

Luke 11

- God is generous and good, and He loves to give good gifts
- And yet, there are unexpected dangers for our hearts
 - There is no neutral ground with Jesus: either for or against
 - A well-ordered life without the Spirit of God is in danger of being filled with evil
 - An unhealthy "eye" can fill one's whole being with darkness
- Even in the most unexpected places...

Luke 11:37-54

37-38: A meal that turned into a confrontation

Pharisees required ceremonial washing after being in public
Surprisingly, Jesus didn't do that

Going directly from the public space to a meal gave the Pharisee the chance to see what Jesus did

He was even more surprised by Jesus' attack!

It seems that neither the Pharisee nor the expert in the law expected to be the target of such a rebuke

Why include such strong attacks against religious leaders?

- We are at risk for the same errors
- Remember: they were seen as people who were closest to God
- We also can be very wrong about who is honoring God
 - Whether ourselves or others

39-44: Jesus rebuked the Pharisees

Jesus was shockingly inappropriate culturally!

They appeared to be honoring God

They emphasized certain external rules

- Must wash after being around spiritually common people
- Made biblical rules stricter to prevent breaking the Bible

Certainly Jesus knew what He was doing when not washing

Rather than explaining His actions, He rebuked them!

God made both inside and outside, so both matter

- Justice (horizontal) and loving God (vertical) are much bigger!
- Sometimes Christians argue against doing justly!

Hypocrites = inside is not the same as outside

- That is every one of us!
- They paid little attention to inner, unseen issues

45-52: Jesus rebuked the legal experts

They expected that Jesus wouldn't rebuke them!

About the prophets

They appeared to honor the prophets

Yet they are just like their ancestors in opposing the prophets

About the Bible

They appeared to honor the Bible

They could “prove” their position by quoting the Bible

Yet they were blocking the Bible’s value for people!

Not gathering with Jesus, they were scattering

One can “prove your case” using the Bible and yet still be opposing God

53-54: The Pharisees & legal experts plotted against Jesus

Storytelling: mentioning the start of the meal and the end of the meal completes this unit

These religious leaders were opposing Jesus just like their ancestors opposed the prophets

They responded to the rebuke of God by opposing God even more

A picture of sin in our hearts...

The Big Idea

God sees and values

**both what is internal/invisible and what is external/public,
which puts every single one of us in great need
of the grace of God**

there are visible killers with visible symptoms

dishonesty, slander, substance abuse, laziness, sexual sin, ...

there are invisible killers that are silent and hidden killers

pride, lust, greed, bitterness, “socially acceptable” anger, ...

invisible killers are a far greater danger for “mature” Christians!

Why we often like (certain) visible rules

Security in being able to judge others

Outrunning a bear

As long as there are people worse than I...

Find peace in the clarity of seeing good and bad people

Sense of security in things we can control

I may struggle with angry thoughts, but at least I don’t kill anyone!

“But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment.” Matthew 5:22

I can (sometimes) clean myself up to be more presentable to people, to myself, and to God (I imagine)

Yet these rules hide the silent killers all the more!

Application

Value both internal/invisible and external

God cares about our hearts (internal):

“But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”” 1 Samuel 16:7

God cares about our actions (external):

“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?” James 2:14

“From heaven the Lord looks down and sees all mankind;

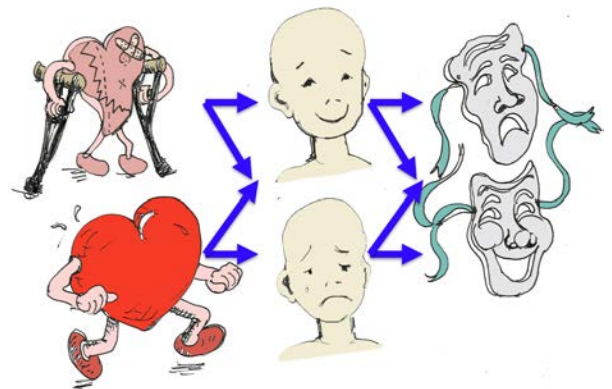
from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth—

he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do.” Psalm 33:13-15

Just like the Pharisees, we are so often convinced that what we can see is all that really matters

In other people

In ourselves



Yet God also looks at the heart and what is unseen

And that should bring a holy fear

About how we judge and praise other people

About how we judge and praise ourselves

“Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.” Hebrews 4:13

Use external action to pursue internal growth

“But now as for what is inside you—be generous to the poor, and everything will be clean for you.” Luke 11:41

Don’t wait for heart change to engage in action change

Rather, use change in action as a tool to change our hearts

So...obey God’s commands in faith, trusting that He will change our hearts to delight in His ways.

For example...

To grow in generosity → give

To grow in loving your enemy → pray for and do good to them

To grow in rejoicing → choose to rejoice now

To grow in forgiveness → choose to forgive now

Humbly confess and take action to follow God

“The real thing to fear is not what other people think but what God will declare in the courts of heaven on the Day of Judgment.”

Pointing out people who are less good than us is no help

Even if we can ‘prove’ our rightness from Scripture, we might still be completely wrong!

Human praise can be a deadly yet silent killer

Jesus is the standard by which we will be praised & rebuked

We all desperately need the wisdom and the grace of God!

Our hidden sin (attitudes, will, desires) are silent killers!

Being guided by human praise or critique will kill us

Conclusion

We desperately need God’s work to transform how we see ourselves and each other

Psalm 139:23-24

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. In what ways might my view of myself or other people be like cleaning the outside of a dish while leaving the inside of the dish unwashed?
2. What external action is God calling me to do in order to bring about internal change, rather than waiting for internal change to prompt external action? What step will I take today or this week?
3. Where am I at risk of being more by human praise or critique (whether from other people or from within myself) than by the praise or critique of God?
4. What does confession and repentance look like in your life? It is important to do this as a community in our worship services. It is also important to make it a personal practice and to practice it in other settings (such as Life Groups or friendships).