

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE**Clean Outside, Dirty Inside**

LUKE 11:37-54

OVERVIEW

Luke is the longest and most comprehensive of the four Gospels, presenting Jesus as the Perfect Man who came to save sinful men. Growing belief and growing opposition develop side by side. Those who believe his claims are challenged to count the cost of discipleship; those who oppose him will not be satisfied until the Son of Man hangs lifeless on a cross. But the resurrection ensures that his ministry of seeking and saving the lost will continue through his disciples once they have been equipped with the indwelling Holy Spirit. Luke reveals that Jesus is the King, and he has come to inaugurate his Kingdom. (Adapted from *Talk Through the Bible*).

OBSERVE, INTERPRET & APPLY // LUKE 11:14-36.

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God's word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

Overview/Big Idea: God desires joyful obedience from the heart, not empty actions with our hands or mere facts in our heads.

1. Read Luke 1:1-4.
 - a. From these four verses, what do you learn about the Gospel of Luke?
 - b. Why did Luke write this gospel account of Jesus' life?
2. What have been some of the main themes we've seen through the first 10 chapters?
3. Read Luke 11:37-54.
4. Notice in verse 38, the Pharisee was "astonished" that Jesus "did not first wash before dinner." Who are the Pharisees? Why does the Pharisee react this way? What is the Pharisee's main concern? What is Jesus' main concern? See Mark 7:1-8 for help.
5. How does Jesus respond to the Pharisee in verses 39-41? What is Jesus saying about the Pharisees?
6. Notice in verses 42-44, Jesus gives three "Woes" to the Pharisees. Discuss the meaning of each one. What might these look like in our own lives?
 - a. How does the gospel free us to love neighbor and love God?
 - b. How does the gospel free us from loving places of honor?
 - c. How does the gospel free us from being dead on the inside?
7. In verse 45, a "lawyer" chimes in saying Jesus has insulted them also. Who are the lawyers?
8. Notice in verse 46-52, Jesus gives three "Woes" to the lawyers. Discuss the meaning of each one. Are there ways we need to be careful of these same "woes" given to the lawyers?
9. In verses 53-54, how do the Pharisees and lawyers respond to Jesus? What does their response tell us about the state of their heart?
10. What might tempt us to respond the same way?

11. How can we cultivate a soft-heart that responds in joyful repentance and obedience? What role does gospel community play in helping us?

- General Bible study questions:
 - **God:** What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
 - **Humanity:** What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
 - **Christ:** How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
 - **Response:** How should I respond with my affections and my actions?
 - **God:** How does this passage help me hope in heaven?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: Are there areas where you're seeking to look clean on the outside while intentionally hiding something unclean on the inside?