

The Dangers of Legalism
Matthew 15:1-20

Review:

1. Legalism, making up and trying to follow our own code of conduct, only leads to hypocrisy
2. It's impossible for anyone to please God by ourselves, no matter how many rules we follow
3. Jesus Himself is the only way for anyone to live a life of integrity and obedience

Reflect:

1. Have you ever tried to talk yourself into doing something that, deep down, you knew wasn't right? What kind of rationalizations did you use? How did you become convicted of your sin?

Go further: Read Isaiah 29:9-24

1. How does Isaiah describe God's people in verse 9?
2. In verse 10, what does Isaiah say God has done to the prophets and the seers?
3. To what does God compare the vision of His truth in verse 11?
4. To what does God compare His truth in verse 12?
5. In verse 13, what opposite things does God say His people have done with their lips and their hearts?
6. What kinds of commandments does God say His people follow?
7. In verse 14, what does God say He will do among His people?
8. What does God say will happen to the wisdom of those who consider themselves to be wise and prudent?
9. In verse 15, what do some people try to hide from God?
10. In verse 16, what does Isaiah say it is foolish for clay to say to its potter?
11. What does God say will happen to Lebanon in verse 17? But what will happen to fields that had formerly been fruitful?
12. What does God say will happen to the deaf and the blind?
13. What does God say will happen to the humble and the poor?
14. What does God say will happen to the terrible and the scornful?
15. How does God describe the actions of the wicked in verse 21?
16. What does God say He did for Abraham in verse 22?
17. What does God say will not happen to Jacob?
18. What does God say the descendants of Jacob will do in verse 23?
19. In verse 24, how does God say that those who erred and complained will be changed?

Summary and Application:

1. Have you ever tried to hide your sin from God? How successful were you?
2. Have you ever tried to tell God what to do about the difficult circumstances in your life? How did that turn out?
3. How does meditating on the miraculous works of Jesus help you during your own times of weakness and need?