

Cover Up

Step 4 - We made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

Suspense movies
Watergate

Benghazi
HGTV – Holmes on Homes

Facelifts
Hidden areas in our homes

Outward Facades

How many times have you seen an old run down building that gives the appearance of just needing to be torn down and something more modern put it its place? It's not uncommon to do a complete make over or remodel and cover up the entire battered structure with new materials, give it a face lift if you will, and with it's new façade nobody has a clue what's underneath.

Many people who come to CF want to work on the outside problem, many times for outward appearance, or to appease others, or to just look good and seldom take a look at the inside. This is fruitless and will not lead to lasting freedom. **We should be asking ourselves** what is it inside of me causing this outward behavior. Why are we unwilling to look at or acknowledge what's inside of us. Some may want to paint the picture or be "known" by the pastor or the top counselor in the area so they can say...well I'm talking to such and such daily or weekly or seeing such and such for counseling on a regular basis and it's only an outward façade to cover up something that is still being hidden on the inside.

The Problem:

Luke 11:37-41 Now when He had spoken, a Pharisee *asked Him to have lunch with him; and He went in, and reclined at the table. When the Pharisee saw it, he was surprised that He had not first ceremonially washed before the meal. But the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and of the platter; but inside of you, you are full of robbery and wickedness. You foolish ones, did not **He who made the outside make the inside also?** But give that which is within as charity, and then all things are clean for you.

- It's interesting that Jesus references God making us entirely (inside and out), i.e., in His image. He had this total understanding of being sold out, all in, true followers of God and not just externally or "**surface serving**" still living in our own wills and desires.
- They were self-focused when they should have been Christ and others focused?
- Are we self-focused when we should be Christ and others focused?

Mark 12:29-30 Jesus answered, The foremost is, Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord; 30 and you shall **love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.**

The Details:

Luke 11:42-44 But woe to you Pharisees!	
you pay tithe of mint and rue and every kind of garden herb	and yet disregard justice and the love of God;
<i>these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.</i>	
you love the chief seats in the synagogues and the respectful greetings in the market places.	
you are like concealed tombs [covered up] , and the people who walk over them are unaware of it.	
45 One of the lawyers *said to Him in reply, Teacher, when You say this, You insult us too. 46 But He said,	
Woe to you lawyers as well!	
you weigh men down with burdens hard to bear,	while you yourselves will not even touch the burdens with one of your fingers.
you build the tombs of the prophets,	and it was your fathers who killed them. 48 So you are witnesses and approve the deeds of your fathers; because it was they who killed them, and you build their tombs
you have taken away the key of knowledge; you yourselves did not enter,	and you hindered those who were entering.

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Their Response:

Luke 11:53-54 When He left there, the scribes and **the Pharisees began to be very hostile** and to question Him closely on many subjects, 54 plotting against Him to catch Him in something He might say.

- **Notice the contrast** from others response on different occasions with Jesus, John the Baptist, Peter and John the apostles (in Acts); The Pharisee(s) did not respond with “What Shall We Do”. They were defensive, hostile, retaliatory, not willing to accept the truth.

The Seriousness of the Problem:

Luke 12:1-3 Under these circumstances, after so many thousands of people had gathered together that they were stepping on one another, He began saying to His disciples first of all, **Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.** 2 **But there is nothing covered up that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.** 3 **Accordingly, whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in the inner rooms will be proclaimed upon the housetops.**

- This is a problem that will grow; it will not lay dormant.
- Notice His reference to light...in Him (Christ) there is no darkness at all.
- Jesus had been speaking to some people who had become so religious that they had lost sight of the true message, and warning new followers not to fall into this trap.

Hebrews 4:12-13 For **the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.** 13 **And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.**

- Doesn't what Jesus said to the Pharisee bring this statement to life? He sees right through all our facades.

Freedom Points – (Freedom is not based on works. Freedom is based in truth)

- Once our stuff is uncovered, it takes the power out of the secret and we can be free.
- If this principle is active in our life, we are not free; we are in bondage to either lies or whatever we are keeping in. We are slaves to it.
- Jesus did not reject the Pharisee; He spoke truth and they had opportunity to respond.

Walking It Out – (Our part/responsibility based on Christ in You, strengthening us as we choose to walk forward)

- Am I a hypocrite with regards to the outside vs. the inside?
- When we come to the realization that we're covering things up, wearing a mask, hiding stuff on the inside, while trying to look good on the outside, **are we willing** to acknowledge it, and begin walking it out in a life of transparency?
- Do we realize the hypocrisy in us will grow (leaven)?
- Can we begin to focus on what is on the inside, causing or fueling our outward behaviors, that we so want to stop, truly believing that as Jesus said, the outside will become clean?
- What are we going to do; keep polishing the outside of the cup and never change the inside? We will never find lasting joy and peace from that approach.
- Can you make a commitment to admit the things you want to come clean from, and allow God and community to come along side of you in this process?