What Would Jesus UNDO

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HYPOCRISY

"What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people's bones and all sorts of impurity. Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness... Snakes! Sons of vipers! How will you escape the judgment of hell?
Matthew 23:27-28,33

Hypocrisy is not the disparity between what we _____ and what we _____ we _____.

Hypocrisy is the gap between what we _____ and _____ we _____.

"Such people claim they know God, but they deny him by the way they live."
Titus 1:16

Jesus has no tolerance for _____ , but has _____ _____ for a sinner in need of forgiveness.

"What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy—full of greed and self-indulgence! You blind Pharisee! First wash the inside of the cup and the dish, and then the outside will become clean, too."
Matthew 23:25-26

Hope For The Hypocrite:

1. Start being an _____ _____, rather than a _____ _____.

"People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy.
Proverbs 28:13

2. Stop trying to close the gap with _____

Memory Verse

"Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
Point out anything in me that offends you,
and lead me along the path of everlasting life."
Psalm 139:23-24

3. Focus on closing the gap with _____

"Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful."
Hebrews 10:22-23

MY NEXT STEP IS TO. . .

- ○ Confess my sins to God, turn from them and receive his mercy for the first time today by becoming a follower of Jesus Christ.
- ○ Memorize Psalm 139:23-24
- ○ Make Psalm 139:23-24 my prayer this week
- ○ Get the most out of this weekend's teaching by attending my Life group this week

Recycled Paper

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Discussion Questions - Week #7

LIFEGROUPS

QUICK REVIEW
Thinking back to the sermon this weekend, “What Would Jesus Undo: Hypocrisy”, in a sentence or two, summarize the main point.

Looking at your notes, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Is there any practical step you plan on taking this week in response to the message?

GETTING STARTED
- Describe how you feel or what you think about when you hear the word “hypocrisy”.

- Why do you think it's so much easier to identify hypocrisy in others in comparison to seeing it in our own lives?

DIGGING DEEPER
1. In the message this weekend, we learned that in the ancient world, the word hypocrite referred to a stage actor wearing a mask. In the following passage, Jacob doesn't wear a mask, but he's undoubtedly pretending to be someone he's not. Read Genesis 27:1-27 and 41-45. What stands out to you in this passage?

How did Jacob's blessing become a curse?

Have you ever felt like you had to put on a mask to receive a blessing from someone important in your life (a parent, spouse, teacher, or boss)?

How did that work out for you?

Why do you think we sometimes feel like we need to wear a mask to receive a blessing from others?

2. In defining hypocrisy, Pastor Rick shared that it is the gap between what we show and who we are. In Matthew 6:1-8 and 16-18, Jesus speaks of some people who were all about the show. Read the passage together as a group. How is it that publicly giving, praying, or fasting can make us hypocrites?

Do you think we must always hide our religious acts to avoid hypocrisy? Should we stop praying in restaurants or sharing with others about serving with our church?

How might living with greater integrity as opposed to hypocrisy impact our witness?

3. Read Galatians 2:11-14. Why do you think Peter and Barnabas' actions were such a big deal to Paul?

How does it make you feel that Peter, one of Jesus' disciples and a leader in the early church, struggled with hypocrisy?

In what area of your life do you feel like you struggle with this issue the most?

What's one step you could take this week to live more openly before God and others?

TAKING IT HOME
- What truth from this weekend's message do you need to keep in front of you this week?

PRAYER REQUESTS