October 16, 2019

Scripture

Luke 11:42-46
The Lord said:
"Woe to you Pharisees!
You pay tithes of mint and of rue and of every garden herb,
but you pay no attention to judgment and to love for God.
These you should have done, without overlooking the others.
Woe to you Pharisees!
You love the seat of honor in synagogues
and greetings in marketplaces.
Woe to you!
You are like unseen graves over which people unknowingly walk."
Then one of the scholars of the law said to him in reply,
"Teacher, by saying this you are insulting us too."
And he said, "Woe also to you scholars of the law!
You impose on people burdens hard to carry,
but you yourselves do not lift one finger to touch them."

Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus pronounces a curse upon the religious authorities and scholars of the Law. Why?
Because they were hypocrites, “stage actors” from Greek. They loved to prance around in public
looking pious and holy in order to impress the common folk. But they played games with the
Law. They expected others to follow the Law strictly but they did the very least they could get by
with for appearance sake.. Like all religious leaders, their job was to help people to obtain
eternal life, but they looked out only for themselves.

Food for your Journey
To be a witness for God is to be a living sign of God's presence in the world. What we live is more important than what we say, because the right way of living always leads to the right way of speaking. When we forgive our neighbors from our hearts, our hearts will speak forgiving words. When we are grateful, we will speak grateful words, and when we are hopeful and joyful, we will speak hopeful and joyful words.

When our words come too soon and we are not yet living what we are saying, we easily give double messages. Giving double messages -- one with our words and another with our actions -- makes us hypocrites. May our lives give us the right words and may our words lead us to the right life.


A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You abhor game players and hypocrites. You expect those who claim to be Your disciples to live like disciples. Keep me humble, faithful and sincere, Lord. May I live exactly what I profess about You and my faith. Amen