



Daily Reflections

August 23, 2016

Scripture

Matthew 23:23-26

Jesus said:

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites.
You pay tithes of mint and dill and cummin,
and have neglected the weightier things of the law:
judgment and mercy and fidelity.

But these you should have done, without neglecting the others.
Blind guides, who strain out the gnat and swallow the camel!

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites.
You cleanse the outside of cup and dish,
but inside they are full of plunder and self-indulgence.
Blind Pharisee, cleanse first the inside of the cup,
so that the outside also may be clean.”

Our Scripture Reflection

The scribes and Pharisees loved public display. They would ceremoniously parade into the Temple area in order to pay their tithes on garden herbs. However, when it came to what was hidden in their hearts, justice and mercy, they were empty. They truly earned the title hypocrite.

Food for your Journey

Anyone who has ever taught or attempted to lead others knows the tendency in all of us toward exaggerating our depth of character while treating leniently our flaws. The Bible calls this tendency hypocrisy. We consciously or subconsciously put forward a better image of ourselves than really exists. The outward appearance of our character and the inner reality (that only God, we and perhaps our family members know) do not match.

—C.S. Lewis.

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You know everything about me. You know my every thought, movement and emotion in my heart. Please, keep me pure and holy. May I seek to please You in all things and above all things. Amen.