

HEALING FROM HYPOCRISY

1. The Heart of Hypocrisy

Matthew 15:7-8, NIV

You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.”

Matthew 6:1, NRSV

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 6:2, NRSV

“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

Matthew 6:3-4, NRSV

But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Matthew 6:5, NRSV

“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

Matthew 6:6, NRSV

But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Matthew 6:16, NRSV

“And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

Matthew 6:17-18, NRSV

But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Matthew 23:5, NRSV

They do all their deeds to be seen by others.

Matthew 23:1-3, NRSV

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’s seat; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it, but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach.”

Matthew 23:27, NRSV

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which on the outside look beautiful but inside are full of the bones of the dead and of all kinds of uncleanness.

Matthew 23:28, NRSV

So you also on the outside look righteous to others, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”

"The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians, who acknowledge Jesus with their lips and walk out the door and deny Him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable."
(Brennan Manning)

2. The History of Hypocrisy

Amos 5:21-22, NLT

“I hate all your show and pretense—the hypocrisy of your religious festivals and solemn assemblies. I will not accept your burnt offerings and grain offerings. I won’t even notice all your choice peace offerings.

Amos 5:23-24, NLT

Away with your noisy hymns of praise! I will not listen to the music of your harps. Instead, I want to see a mighty flood of justice, an endless river of righteous living.

Acts 4:36-37, NKJV

And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Acts 5:1, NLT

But there was a certain man named Ananias who, with his wife, Sapphira, sold some property.

Acts 5:2, NLT

He brought part of the money to the apostles, claiming it was the full amount. With his wife's consent, he kept the rest.

Acts 5:3, NLT

Then Peter said, "Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, and you kept some of the money for yourself.

Acts 5:4, NLT

The property was yours to sell or not sell, as you wished. And after selling it, the money was also yours to give away. How could you do a thing like this? You weren't lying to us but to God!"

Acts 5:5, NLT

As soon as Ananias heard these words, he fell to the floor and died. Everyone who heard about it was terrified.

Acts 5:6, NLT

Then some young men got up, wrapped him in a sheet, and took him out and buried him.

Acts 5:11, NLT

Great fear gripped the entire church and everyone else who heard what had happened.

3. The Hurt of Hypocrisy

Hypocrisy:

- Dishonors God.
- Discredits the Church.

- Disorients People.

4. The Healing for Hypocrisy

For Those Guilty of Hypocrisy:

- Remember God Sees Everything.

Hebrews 4:13, NLT

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.

For Those Guilty of Hypocrisy:

- Remember God Sees Everything.
- Take off the Mask.

James 5:16, NLT

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

For Those Hurt by Hypocrisy:

- Acknowledge the hurt.
- Don't give up on all people because of some people.
- Don't confuse God with the people of God.
- Recalibrate your expectations.

Psalm 103:14, NLT

For he knows how weak we are; he remembers we are only dust.

For Those Hurt by Hypocrisy:

- Acknowledge the hurt.
- Don't give up on all people because of some people.
- Don't confuse God with the people of God.
- Recalibrate your expectations.
- Don't forfeit your purpose because of the hurt.

Acts 13:51-52, NKJV

But they shook off the dust from their feet against them, and came to Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.