

The Journey into the Heart of the Matter

Eddie Broussard

I. Introduction.

A. We are a new creation, but we often do not feel like it. (II Corinthians 5:17).

B. Text: Matthew 23:25-26.

II. A hypocrite was someone who pretended to be someone he was not. We are called not to be actors but witnesses.

A. A witness is someone who knows something by his experience. (I John 1)

B. Pharisees focused on cleaning the “outside of the cup” for public affirmation.

C. The kingdom of God determines that the biggest difference comes from what is not seen.

D. The true character of our hearts is often revealed when we are alone. (Proverbs 12:3-12)

E. Jesus teaches to clean the inside first. When the inside is cleaned, the beauty of change will show on the outside.

F. The beatitudes are descriptions of the kingdom of God. (Matthew 5)

III. The inside of the cup is messed up because of sin. (Romans 5:12)

A. Sin has a nature.

1. Sin dominates.

2. Sin deceives.

3. Sin destroys. (Romans 6:28)

B. Sin has an act.

C. Sin has an effect.

1. How to deal with the effects of being a sinner personally.

a. Sin has to be dealt with.

b. Sin that is not dealt with affects one’s identity—we hide from God because of shame. (Genesis 3)

c. Unresolved sin gives us permission to judge it in other’s lives.

d. Unresolved shame gives us permission to judge the motives of others.

e. Keys to dealing with sin. (Proverbs 28:3)

1. Bring sin into light by admitting sin and confessing it. (Psalm 66:18, I John 1:8)
2. Sorrow because of sin. (II Corinthians 7:10, James 5:16)
3. Repentance, which is turning the other direction.

f. Sin gives us pleasure, comfort and control.

1. God wants us to put Him in the center of our problems.
2. The only way one deals with sin is by death. (Romans 6:6, Ezekiel 18:20, Genesis 2:17)
3. The key to tapping into the power of the cross is an act of faith—one must believe and count true what God says is true even when he does not feel like it.
4. The cross of Christ gives us freedom to choose against sin. (Galatians 2:20)

2. When one is sinned against, what happens.

a. When wounding goes unresolved, the power of the sin begins to wound and define a person.

b. Lies affect us. (Psalm 41:4)

1. They affect our view of our identity.
2. They affect our view of God. (Proverbs 4:23)
3. We must replace these lies with truth. (John 8:31-32)

c. Jesus not only bore our sins but the sins of others against us. (Isaiah 53:4)

d. God wants to give us peace and wholeness in our lives. (Isaiah 61, I John 4:14)

e. There are places we need Jesus to come in and save us from the power of our sin. (Revelation 3:20)

Application questions:

1. In what ways have you been more concerned about the “outside of the cup?”

2. How would you counsel someone struggling with sin? Explain.

3. When one is sinned against, why is it important to forgive?
