

DISCUSSION GUIDE

DON'T BE THAT PHARISEE
The Gospel of John — Week 38

ICEBREAKER: What's your all-time favorite meal, and how often do you enjoy it?

OVERVIEW: The Pharisees were Jesus' arch enemies. They hated Jesus, attempted to trap Him into saying something incriminating on multiple occasions, and plotted with Judas to betray Jesus. They were the Jewish teachers of the first century, and they were leading the nation away from God. Jesus called them hypocrites, children of hell, blind fools, blind guides, and whitewashed tombs. They rejected Jesus and caused many others to do the same. Jesus warned us not to be like the Pharisees. In this discussion we are going to go deeper with how to avoid the sins of the Pharisees.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Who were the Pharisees?
3. Read Matthew 15:7-9. Jesus applied Isaiah's prophecy to the Pharisees. What were His criticisms against the Pharisees?

4. Matthew 15:7 calls the Pharisees "hypocrites." What is a hypocrite? (See also Mt 23:27-28.)
5. Matthew 15:8 says the Pharisees "honor me with their lips, but their heart is far from me." What does this mean?
6. Matthew 15:9 says the Pharisees were "teaching as doctrines human commands." What does this mean? Do people ever do this today? Explain.
7. Read Matthew 23:1-7. What sins of the Pharisees are mentioned in this passage?
8. Read Matthew 5:20. What did Jesus mean?
9. What can we do to be on guard against the leaven of the Pharisees (Lk 12:1)?

The Last Word: "A pharisee is hard on others and easy on himself, but a spiritual man is easy on others and hard on himself."
A. W. Tozer