

***Robotic Religion***  
***Luke 11:37-12:3***

In Luke 11, we see what happens when faith in God and in His word become merely a set of rules to be followed, and people are judged based on how strictly they follow those external rules.

Jesus responds viscerally to the Pharisees' system that values clean cups over broken people. Jesus had previously shown more restraint when they attacked Him for things more significant than ceremonial washings. This must have been a last straw.

Jesus' diatribe against the Scribes and Pharisees was intended to show what is at the heart of robotic religion: Hypocrisy—the tendency to scrutinize and sentence others while failing to examine honestly your own heart before God.

Jesus' list of hypocritical behaviors of the robotically religious all point back to what He said at first: "You Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. You foolish people! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also?" Outward expressions of faith aren't bad in themselves, but they can be destructive and even deadly when practiced without what Jesus calls "justice and the love of God."

If we ever feel prompted by the Spirit to speak to another person about their spiritual shortcomings, we desperately need to follow the model found in Gal. 6:1-2.

Jesus warned that those things we conceal will some day be made known, and the secrets we keep will be revealed. He is reminding us that we will all stand before God in judgment someday and the God who looks not on outward appearances but on the heart will know everything about us. I don't want to stand and be exposed before God knowing I have judged harshly those whose sins are not that different from my own. Nor do I want to be judged by a God whose word and whose Son I have rejected. I want to stand before a God in whose Son I have believed and whose forgiveness and grace I have willingly received.