

What does Jesus state regarding the value of outward appearances in relation to inward reality?

How would Jesus' accusation of appearing righteous to men, but inwardly being "full of hypocrisy and lawlessness" be deeply offensive to the scribes and Pharisees?

How do external correctness and internal purity correlate in one's spiritual life?

### **GOSPEL CONNECTION**

John tells his purpose for writing his first letter: to maintain fellowship with God our Father and His Son Jesus Christ (1 John 1:3).  
"6If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; 7but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us." 1 John 1:6-10

### **APPLICATION**

What will you do this week to keep your heart pure so that what is seen outwardly accurately reflects who you are inwardly (Prov. 4:20-27)?

### **MEMORY VERSE**

"But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit." Titus 3:4-5 (ESV)

## **Sermon-Based Study Guide**

**// April 14, 2024 //**

Sermon Series:  
King Jesus

Ethan Johnson  
Century Baptist Church

### ***Inside Out***

*Matthew 23:25-28*

1. Dirty dishes

2. Filthy tombs

Sermon available at [centurybaptist.org/watch/](http://centurybaptist.org/watch/)

# Sermon-Based Community Life Group Study

// April 14, 2024 //

Our desire and goal is for all who call Century Baptist their church home to be involved in a community life group, Bible study, or missional community. We believe one of the best ways to be fed and exhorted in our faith is to interact with the Sunday sermon. This guide is a tool to facilitate that interaction.

The purpose of this guide is for all groups, studies, and communities to dive into the Sunday message through the study of Scripture together. If you are not in a group, we encourage you to take the step of involvement in community around your faith and the pursuit of faith in Jesus. This study guide can be used individually, however, the greatest benefit of growth in Scripture and faith comes when people are interacting together around Biblical truth and how God is at work in their lives.

Contact Pastor Paul Herr at 701.223.0478 to learn more about sermon-based community life groups, and leading or hosting a group.

## OPENING UP

How do you determine the genuineness of someone or something?

### Introduction to Matthew

Matthew, someone has said, followed Jesus—and took his pen with him. As a tax collector, he was used to writing and to gathering information together in a clear and ordered way. When Jesus called him to live the life of a disciple, Matthew (called Levi in other places) was destined to use his gifts to give us an ordered and carefully written account of who Jesus was and what he came to do. As a disciple himself, Matthew focuses on three things: the King whom disciples follow, the lifestyle his disciples follow, and the way in which people become disciples. The identification of Jesus as a king draws us back into the Old Testament, to themes and predictions which find their fulfillment in his life and work.

(Campbell, I. D. (2008). *Opening up Matthew* (p. 14). Leominster: Day One Publications.)

### Read Matthew 23:25-28

What was one point or statement from the message that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Who are these words addressed to?

What is the meaning and purpose of the term *Woe* (Greek: ouai)?

What is the meaning of the word *Hypocrites* (Greek: hupokritaes)?

Why are the scribes and Pharisees called hypocrites by Jesus?

What is the point of cleaning the outside of the cup or plate?

What does “they are full of robbery and self-indulgence” mean?

### Read Titus 3:4-8 and 2 Corinthians 5:17:

What do these verses reveal about the work of Jesus Christ in our lives when we believe in Him as the Son of God who died for our sins?

How does being clean on the inside make one clean on the outside?

Why were tombs whitewashed in the first century?

Describe the irony in Jesus’ simile that whitewashed tombs appear beautiful.