

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Cut Out Hypocrisy

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

Isaiah 58-59:13

Theme: Cut out hypocrisy so you can be satisfied in whole-hearted devotion.

Introduction: Medical care during the Civil War was fairly primitive compared to today. Soldiers often needed to “bite the bullet” as a means of dealing with the pain of surgery. Similarly, many of Isaiah’s prophecies were hard medicine to the Israelites in their hypocrisy and rebellion against God; yet he didn’t call them (or us) to bite the bullet, but to respond humbly with faith and repentance.

Isaiah shows us several layers to the Lord’s mercy and grace to his hypocritical people:

1. False devotion (58:1-5)

Isaiah declared Israel’s sins, exposing their false ‘devotion’ for the hypocrisy it was. They were trying to use God selfishly and then actually charging God with being Unfaithful to *them*.

The Lord saw through it: “you seek your own pleasure” (v. 3). Though they performed some religious deeds, their hypocrisy was revealed in how they treated one another.

Hypocrisy is the outward show of devotion from an inward motive of self-pleasure.

2. Real consequences (59:1-13)

Hypocrisy seeks to both bend others to our advantage *and* to appear to be righteous.

Yet our iniquities separate us from God (vv. 1-2). He will not allow us to be successful in our hypocrises.

Verses 3-12 show the depth of their hypocrisy, and that their separation from God was their fault (not his). The Lord exposed the reality of their wickedness.

3. True devotion (58:6-14)

The Lord calls his people to manifest true devotion to him in how we treat one another.

We can do that as we have been loved and forgiven by God. This produces love for God, and then one another, while it also squelches hypocrisy.

This also means that we will know God’s grace and care even in scorched places. The Lord will answer you, “Here I am.”

Questions:

1. How are you tempted to hypocrisy? To pursue God’s gift instead of God himself?
2. Do you have hard thoughts about God?
3. How are you fighting hypocrisy in your life?