

## Bible Study Five

*You search much deeper within through the way things appear...*

*This is the fifth edition of the six part bible study using the first verse of Matt Redman's "When the music fades"*

So far in this mini series we have looked at some (brief) key characteristics of being a worshipper we have looked at "the quiet place", being humble, worship is costly and it's ongoing, and you cannot separate "worship" and justice.

This session we are going to be looking at "superficial vs real" To get us started lets look at some of Jesus' teaching on this.

*Read Luke 11: 57-54*

Wow, what can we learn from this other than never invite Jesus round for a meal (or share a bowl of peanuts with him v38!)

I do love the way though that Jesus just got to the point, he didn't do the "small talk" thing, his first words at the table weren't "shall we give thanks" or "this grub looks delicious" they were... *"You are careful to clean the outside of the cup and dish but inside you are filthy, full of greed and wickedness"* in reaction to the hosts disgust. (He was disgusted as the Jewish law required you to wash your hands 12 times before eating)

The Pharisees were known for their parading, their tithing, their big prayers on the street corners and their knowledge of the law but Jesus sees right through them, he says that they are greedy, wicked and corrupt and instead of leading people to the Kingdom of God they are firmly shutting others and indeed themselves out. These are unbelievably harsh and passionate words that we must listen and take notice to.

When it comes to your lives are you more bothered about what the outside looks like or the inside? In other words what part of the "cup" are you working on the most?

Our culture is more and more obsessed about image than ever before, from crazy urine diets (yes thats right) soaring numbers having plastic surgery, to lusting for the latest "everything". It broke my heart when I heard a 7 year old meaningfully say "im fat, I need to go on a diet" how has it come to this? I wish we would become more aware about how we look on the inside, the words in 1 samuel couldn't be more true "man looks at the outward appearance but God looks at the heart." How long will we remain "clean" on the outside and filthy on the inside?

This also makes me reflect on our church ministry. Are we **more** bothered about how it looks and/or sounds or about getting the heart bit right? How painful would be it be to invite Jesus round after a service and expect him to be full of praise and encourage but to hear the words the Pharisees heard. We have a massive and awesome privilege of leading people in worship and thats a responsibility we need to take seriously whatever our team role is. How dare we stand up there without reverence and fear, desperate for everyone to see Jesus not us.

Can you see why the characteristics we have been looking at over this mini series are important? These all point to and reveal the real us...the one that Jesus is looking at right now...

**what does he see?**