



CLIC@HOPE



TOUGH LOVE

THE LOVE THAT CONFRONTS | LUKE 11:37 -

54

Scripture Reading

Luke 11:37–54 NIV

Samuel Fang

37 When Jesus had finished speaking, a Pharisee invited him to eat with him; so he went in and reclined at the table. 38 But the Pharisee was surprised when he noticed that Jesus did not first wash before the meal.

39 Then the Lord said to him, “Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. 40 You foolish people! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also? 41 But now as for what is inside you—be generous to the poor, and everything will be clean for you.

42 “Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.

43 “Woe to you Pharisees, because you love the most important seats in the synagogues and respectful greetings in the marketplaces.

44 “Woe to you, because you are like unmarked graves, which people walk over without knowing it.”

45 One of the experts in the law answered him, “Teacher,
when you say these things, you insult us also.”

46 Jesus replied, “And you experts in the law, woe to you,
because you load people down with burdens they can
hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to
help them.

47 “Woe to you, because you build tombs for the prophets,
and it was your ancestors who killed them. 48 So you testify
that you approve of what your ancestors did; they killed the
prophets, and you build their tombs. 49 Because of this, God
in his wisdom said, ‘I will send them prophets and apostles,
some of whom they will kill and others they will persecute.’ 50
Therefore this generation will be held responsible for the blood
of all the prophets that has been shed since the beginning of
the world, 51 from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah,
who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell
you, this generation will be held responsible for it all.

52 “Woe to you experts in the law, because you have taken away the key to knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you have hindered those who were entering.”

53 When Jesus went outside, the Pharisees and the teachers of the law began to oppose him fiercely and to besiege him with questions, 54 waiting to catch him in something he might say.

Can love sometimes mean saying something we
don't want to hear?

Last Week

Cleaned up is not the same as set free.

We don't just need a tidier house.

We need a new owner.

Luke 11:24-26

Woe to you

Six times Jesus says, "Woe to you."

The Big Idea

God loves us too much to let us stay comfortable in what is destroying us.

Point 1: Our Heart

Luke 11:37-44

You can look spiritual without being transformed.

Luke 11:39

"Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness."

Luke 11:40

"Did not he who made the outside make
the inside also?"

Luke 12:34

"For where your treasure is, there will
your heart be also."

Luke 11:42

"But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and every herb, and neglect justice and the love of God."

The Uncomfortable Question

What if you can do all the right things
and still miss what God is trying to do in
you?

The Real Question

Am I doing the right things?

Am I allowing God to do the right work in
me?

God isn't asking us to choose between
obedience and love.

He wants our obedience to flow from a heart
that loves Him.

Luke 11:43

"Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the best seat in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces."

**What is driving
our service?**

1 John 4:19

"We love because he first loved us."

An Audience of One

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for
the Lord and not for men."

Colossians 3:23

You have an audience of One.

Home and Church

Would our children say that the faith they see at home is the same faith they see at church?

The Inside of the Cup

People see the outside of the cup.

God sees the inside.

Point 2: Our Response

Luke 11:45

You can hear God's truth and still refuse
to respond.

Luke 11:45

"Teacher, in saying these things you
insult us also."

Resist or Repent

We can resist or repent.

Hebrews 3:15

"Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts."

Revelation 3:19

"Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent."

Two Kings

Saul — protected his image

1 Samuel 15

David — repented

2 Samuel 12

Psalm 51:10

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and
renew a right spirit within me."

Proverbs 12:1

"Whoever loves discipline loves
knowledge, but whoever hates correction
is stupid."

(NIV)

**We need people who speak
the truth in love**

"Exhort one another every day, as long
as it is called today, that none of you
may be hardened by the deceitfulness of
sin."

Two Questions

1. Do you have godly people in your life who can lovingly challenge you?
2. Are you becoming someone who can speak the truth in love?

Pride and Humility

Pride hears correction as rejection.

Humility hears it as love.

Point 3: Our Influence

Luke 11:46-52

You can point others to God or push them
away.

Luke 11:46

"Woe to you lawyers also! For you load people with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers."

Matthew 11:28

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Luke 11:52

"Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter yourselves, and you hindered those who were entering."

Blocking the Door

Sometimes the door is blocked by
harshness.

Sometimes it is blocked by our silence.

Open the Door

Let's be people who open doors, not
block them.

**The Blood That
Speaks a Better
Word**

Luke 23:34

"Father, forgive them, for they know not
what they do."

Hebrews

12:24
"...the sprinkled blood that speaks a
better word than the blood of Abel."

His Blood Speaks

Redemption and forgiveness — Ephesians 1:7

Freedom from sin — Revelation 1:5

Brought near to God — Ephesians 2:13

**God loves us too
much to leave us
where we are.
Come as you are.**

Communion