

Dead Men Walking (Part Two)

Series – *Authentic: Real Faith That Fits Real Life*
– Matthew 23:25-28 –

Two part message:

1. Beware of the Deception of a Selective Obedience (vss. 23-24)
2. Beware of the Deception of a Surface Only Faith (vss. 25-28)

2. The Deception of a Surface Only Faith

A. Illustration: Cup Cleaning (vss. 25-26)

Two characteristics of genuine Christianity:

1. It starts ON THE INSIDE

2. It shows UP ON THE OUTSIDE

B. Illustration: Tombstone Washing (vss. 27-28)

Application Questions. . .

1. What part of the text or message had the greatest impact on you? Where were you most encouraged, intrigued, or challenged?
2. What is at the primary critique that Jesus levies against the Pharisees and how did this relate to their concern about purity?
3. How have you judged those around you who do not follow the same practices or make the same kind of sacrifices you make for God?
4. Why do you think it is easier for people to look at their own resources, intellect or performance as indicators of their own goodness rather than relying on God's grace?
5. How can parents avoid the trap of seeking external performance from their children instead of heart change? How can we influence their hearts?
6. When you have time to reflect on the state of your heart, are you happy with where you are right now? What are you sensing that God wants to change?

