

Holiness Without Humility Is Dangerous

Jesus' warning against the Pharisees in Matthew 23 was not only a rebuke to them; it is a warning to every heart that desires righteousness. Their failure was not that they pursued holiness, but that they lost sight of the heart of God along the way. They became more concerned with appearing righteous than being inwardly transformed.

True righteousness never exalts itself. The nearer we draw to God, the lower we bow before Him, because His presence reveals our complete dependence upon His grace. Holiness that does not produce humility has drifted from the Spirit of Christ.

A transformed heart does not seek superiority; it serves in love. It does not use truth as a weapon of pride, but carries it with mercy, gentleness, and reverence before God.

Micah 6:8 says, *"He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?"*

God is after our hearts, not empty rituals. Knowledge, devotion, and outward discipline mean little if they do not bring us into deeper intimacy with Him. True faith is relationship, not religion. Jesus calls us to childlike humility; always learning, always trusting, always dependent upon Him.

The danger of self-righteousness is that it blinds us to our need for grace. The Pharisees knew the Scriptures, yet missed the One to whom the Scriptures pointed. They trusted in their own works rather than God's mercy, and their pride kept them from seeing Jesus standing right before them.

True humility keeps us in the flow of grace. We never arrive by our own strength. The more we grow in Christ, the more we recognize how desperately we need Him. Dependence upon Him is not weakness; it is the very foundation of faith.

James 4:6 says, *"God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."*

Lord, keep our hearts tender, humble, and fully dependent upon You. Let our pursuit of holiness lead us deeper into Your love, Your mercy, and Your transforming grace.

Amen.