

Simon Peter use curse words to assure people he did not follow Jesus. But the “rest of the story” is that, **“He went out and wept bitterly”** (Mark 14). The term means he “sobbed, burst into tears, wept his heart out.” Peter was a lot of things that are not good; but he was not a hypocrite. He went to his grave trying to do the right thing.

After David committed adultery and had the woman’s husband killed (2 Samuel 11-12), he was ripped apart on the inside physically, mentally and spiritually. He lost his strength; he groaned inwardly day and night and he saw it as a punishment of God (Psalm 32:3-4). He asked God to “forgive” him (Psalm 32:5) and to give him a “clean heart” and a new start so he could teach others the cost of sin and how to find forgiveness (Psalm 51:10).

Satanic People in Our Churches

These men who were criticizing Jesus for not washing His hands in a prescribed (religious) way, were using their interpretation of the Bible to justify refusing to help their aged parents financially when they needed it. They called their money a **gift for God**, but made it where they could still spend it on themselves. And they **knew this was wrong**. Their conscience told them this. Helping our parents is part of what it means to be a human being, made in God’s image. It is one of **“God’s laws written on our hearts”** (Romans 2).

The Bible they taught, told them. One of God’s basic, foundational laws is to honor our parents (Exodus 20). The Old Testament tells us worshipping God, while willfully hurting or refusing to help others, is worthless to God. They knew Jeremiah 7 (above) and also Amos 5.

“You abuse the poor and demand heavy taxes from them. / You have built expensive homes. / You abuse righteous people. / Stop doing wrong and start doing right. / **I hate your religious celebrations and your worship.** / **I won’t listen** to your songs.” (Amos 5:11-24)

They were also plotting Jesus’ murder; when even the pagan governor Pilate, knew He had done no wrong (John 18:38). And when the deed was done, they were part of the mob around the cross that mocked Jesus in front of His mother and would not even let Him die in peace.

People like this are a million miles away from a Christian who hates it when he does wrong and is trying to be and to do better. They are bad people **pretending** to be good and godly people in front of others. They were in the synagogue every week. In public, where people could see them, they prayed long prayers, fasted and gave their offerings. They did it so people would praise them as examples of what a true servant of God should be like (Matthew 23).

Out in the world they were actors, playing a part; putting on a show. Jesus, and many other devout Jews, like Joseph and Mary, no doubt knew this. So, for the first time to their faces, He called them **“actors”**. And the Greek word for this is **“hypocrite”**. Jesus is the first person in the Bible to call people like this, “hypocrites”.

Growing up, I had an Uncle who was the only **“Christian”** in our family. At his house you always said the “blessing” before you ate. Because my mother was ill, we had to live with him when I was in the 9th Grade. I watched him put a Bible in one pocket and a bottle of whiskey in the other as he went to church. After church, he and a friend would get drunk. He put his wife in the hospital with his fists and was caught making “moonshine”. I didn’t let him keep me from coming to Christ. When I made my commitment, I was thinking about him. I said, “Lord, I don’t want to be like Uncle _____. I want to be the real deal”.

Anyone who stays away from church because he or she does not want to be with hypocrites for a few hours on Sunday, is in danger of being with them forever in hell.