

The Tradition of the Elders

“As he was speaking, a Pharisee asked him to dine with him. So he went in and reclined at the table. When the Pharisee saw this, he was amazed that he did not first perform the ritual washing, before dinner. But the Lord said to him, “Now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and evil. Fools! Didn’t he who made the outside make the inside too? But give from what is within to the poor, and then everything is clean for you.

Luke 11:37-12:3 (CSB)

“But woe to you Pharisees! You give a tenth of mint, rue, and every kind of herb, and you bypass justice and love for God. These things you should have done without neglecting the others. **Luke 11:42 (CSB)**

“Woe to you Pharisees! You love the front seat in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces. **Luke 11:43 (CSB)**

“Woe to you! You are like unmarked graves; the people who walk over them don’t know it.” **Luke 11:44 (CSB)**

One of the experts in the law answered him, “Teacher, when you say these things you insult us too.” **Luke 11:45 (CSB)**

Then he said, “Woe also to you experts in the law! You load people with burdens that are hard to carry, and yet you yourselves don’t touch these burdens with one of your fingers. **Luke 11:46 (CSB)**

“Woe to you! You build tombs for the prophets, and your fathers killed them. Therefore, you are witnesses that you approve, the deeds of your fathers, for they killed them, and you build their monuments. Because of this, the wisdom of God said, ‘I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and persecute,’ so that this generation may be held responsible for the blood of all the prophets shed since the foundation of the world, — from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary. **Luke 11:47-51 (CSB)**

“Yes, I tell you, this generation will be held responsible. **Luke 11:50 (CSB)**

“Woe to you experts in the law! You have taken away the key to knowledge. You didn’t go in yourselves, and you hindered those who were trying to go in.” **Luke 11:52 (CSB)**

When he left there, the scribes and the Pharisees began to oppose him fiercely and to cross-examine him about many things; 54 they were lying in wait for him to trap him in something he said. **Luke 11:53 (CSB)**

Meanwhile, a crowd of many thousands came together, so that they were trampling on one another. He began to say to his disciples first, "Be on your guard against the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. There is nothing covered that won't be uncovered, nothing hidden that won't be made known. Therefore, whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in an ear in private rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops. **Luke 12:1-3 (CSB)**

Who They Were

The Main Complaint

"Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they don't wash their hands when they eat. " He answered them, "Why do you break God's commandment because of your tradition? **Matt 15:2-3 (CSB)**

Then he said, "Woe also to you experts in the law! You load people with burdens that are hard to carry, and yet you yourselves don't touch these burdens with one of your fingers." **Luke 11:46 (CSB)**

The Heart of a Pharisee

Legalism noun
excessive adherence to law or formula.

THEOLOGY -

Dependence on moral law rather than on personal religious faith.

- They were full of greed, withholding from the poor.
- They paid a tithe and substituted it for true Justice and Love
- They were hypocrites without responsibility for their own failings.

- They elevated the deeds of the past with no applications of it toward their futures.
- They withheld a public understanding of the scriptures to retain power.

Warnings For Today

And my people, who bear my name, humble themselves, pray and seek my face, and turn from their evil ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land. **2 Chron 7:14 (CSB)**