

How would you summarize what Jesus finds wrong about the Pharisees?

Do religious leaders ever do similar things today? How?

Are you ever guilty of doing similar things? How?

What are some of the dangers of having a checklist of dos and don'ts that go beyond God's written word?

*Ask God to keep you from all forms of legalism. Ask Him to give you a tender heart toward those trapped by legalism. Pray that the inside of your cup is as clean as the outside.*

## Friday

Read Matthew 23:1–11. Jesus is again criticizing the religious leaders for their love of flattery and status symbols. What status symbols do you sometimes care about?

Why can this be hard to overcome?

Spend some time today adding your own observations to the list René gave us in the notes: What else did Jesus care about? What else was he indifferent to? Did he get angry about? Sacrifice for?

How can you live your life like this?

*Ask God to show you any areas of your life where you need to reflect the heart of Christ. Remember that we are not judged for our ability to be like Jesus; we are saved by grace! Thank God for His grace that covers all the ways we fall short!*

## Saturday

*Today please finish any meditations you might have missed, and please pray for the services this weekend. Thanks!!*

# Life Like Jesus

PART 2

## A Heart Like Jesus

April 17 & 18, 2010 • René Schlaepfer

These people honor me with their lips, but their **hearts** are far from me. *Matthew 15:8 (NIV)*

### How can I develop a heart like Jesus?

#### 1. \_\_\_\_\_ about what Jesus \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

When he saw the **crowds**, he had **compassion** on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. *Matthew 9:36*

- \_\_\_\_\_

... Christ loved the **church** and gave himself up for her. *Ephesians 5:25b*

Jesus: "... I will build my **church**, and all the powers of hell will not be able to defeat it."  
*Matthew 16:18b (NLT)*

#### 2. \_\_\_\_\_ to what Jesus \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself. *John 6:15 (NIV)*

Jesus: "My kingdom is **not of this world**." *John 18:36a*

- \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus: "Your approval or disapproval means **nothing** to me." *John 5:41a (LB) (See Matthew 23:1–11)*

- \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus: "Life is not measured by how much you own." *Luke 12:15b (NLT)*

#### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ about what Jesus \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus to religious leaders: "... you crush people with **unbearable religious demands**, and you never lift a finger to ease the burden." *Luke 11:46b*

- \_\_\_\_\_

The people brought children to Jesus, hoping he might touch them. The disciples shooed them off. But Jesus was **irate** and let them know it: "Don't push these children away. Don't ever get between them and me..." *Mark 10:13–14 (TM)*

Whoever causes one of these **little ones** who believe to stumble, it would be better for him if, with a heavy millstone hung around his neck, he had been cast into the sea. *Mark 9:42 (NASB)*

• \_\_\_\_\_  
Jesus: "Woe to you Pharisees, because . . . you neglect **justice** and the **love** of God." *Luke 11:42b (NIV)*

#### 4. \_\_\_\_\_ for what Jesus \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus: "If you try to keep your life for yourself, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will find **true life**." *Mark 8:35 (NLT)*

### Sources

"*The Year of Living Like Jesus*" Ed Dobson

"*The Jesus Model (sermon series)*" Rick Warren

"*How To Be Like Jesus*" Pat Williams

"*The Jesus I Never Knew*" Philip Yancey

## Daily Meditations

*Here's a chance to spend some time each day this week meditating on today's topic!*

### Monday

Do you relate to any of the feelings in the box below?

#### Ever feel like this?

- I feel dry and "blah" spiritually
- I feel spiritually underfed
- I long for greater depth
- I feel like I'm going through the motions
- I want to be closer to God

Which feelings do you relate to? These can all be symptoms of a "godly discontentment" put in your heart by God to move you to a deeper place spiritually . . . a place where you are following more closely after Jesus.

Look over the 4 main points and supporting verses. How would you be changed if you had a heart like Jesus?

*Ask Jesus to help you know Him better through this study. Pray that many will come to know Jesus personally, and that your own relationship with him will be revitalized.*

### Tuesday

What did Jesus care about? Read Luke 13:33–35, just three of many verses that show Jesus' heart for lost people. According to verse 34, what had Jerusalem done to deserve Jesus' condemnation?

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To what did Jesus compare his love?

What is meaningful to you about this image of Jesus as a mother hen?

What does this passage tell you about the heart of Jesus?

*Thank God for His love for you — even when you deserved condemnation! Ask God to give you compassion for your unbelieving friends. Ask Him to help you see one small way you could show compassion for them this week!*

### Wednesday

One of the things Jesus seemed not to care about was human political power. In a culture primed for a political messiah, he deflates expectations of political action at every turn. How does Jesus respond when people want to give him political power (John 6:14–15)?

How does Jesus describe his kingdom (John 18:28–37)?

Here is a loaded question that every Christian must answer for themselves: In a democracy like the U.S., Christians, like other citizens, are sometimes asked to vote on issues that reflect their core values. How can Christians let their biblical worldview impact their choices in elections, yet not become identified primarily or exclusively with a political message?

*Thank God that His kingdom transcends any merely human political organization. Pray for wisdom to navigate the waters of politics in America today!*

### Thursday

What topics get you riled up?

Read Matthew 23:23–28 to see what Jesus stood passionately against more than any other topic. Why do you suppose, of all the first century evils Jesus could have stood against (slavery, Roman oppression, etc.), religious legalism and hypocrisy are the ones he chose?



Live a life filled with love, **following the example of Christ**. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.  
*Ephesians 5:2 (NLT)*

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