



Things to Talk About and Reflect Upon

"Lines and Lambs"

Points from Sunday's Message

Point 1 - God's people did not sweep the house to be spared. They swept it because they already were.

Point 2 - Jesus aimed His warning at the front row, not the back.

Point 3 - Nobody decides to become a Pharisee. You just lean your weight on a good or wrong thing.

Point 4 - A hypocrite is not someone hiding behind a mask. He is someone speaking lines written for a character he is not.

Point 5 - You will be exposed either way. The only questions are when and how.

Key Verse:

"In the meantime, when an innumerable multitude of people had gathered together, so that they trampled one another, He began to say to His disciples first of all, 'Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.'"

—Luke 12:1

Discussion Questions:

1. The order matters: blood first, broom second

Pastor Miles made the point that Israel didn't sweep the leaven out of their houses in order to be spared — they swept because they already had been spared by the blood of the lamb on the doorpost. Why is it so easy for us to flip that order and start treating our "house-cleaning" as the reason God accepts us? Where have you seen that flip happen — in your own thinking or in church culture generally?

Further Reading: Exodus 12:1–13, 21–28; Leviticus 23:4–8; 1 Corinthians 5:6–8

2. Coverings

The very first thing sin produced in Adam and Eve was a desire to make a covering. Jesus warns about hypocrisy using the same instinct — the leaven we'd rather hide than sweep out. What are the "fig leaves" people reach for today? Why does covering

feel safer than confessing, even though Jesus says everything hidden will eventually be revealed anyway?

Further Reading: Genesis 3:1–13; Psalm 32:1–5; Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:5–9

3. Lines, not masks

We usually picture a hypocrite as someone hiding behind a mask. Miles pointed out that the Greek word Jesus uses (*hupokrisis*) is about the script — an actor performing the right lines at the right time. Does that definition change how you'd spot hypocrisy in yourself? What's the difference between genuinely growing in the habits of faith and simply getting good at the lines?

Further Reading: Matthew 6:1–18; Matthew 23:23–28; Isaiah 29:13

4. Nobody sets out to be a Pharisee

"Nobody wakes up one day and says, 'I want to be a hypocrite.'" The Pharisees started as the deeply committed ones — serious about Scripture, prayer, fasting, and giving. They drifted by leaning all their weight on good things instead of on Christ.

Take a minute of honest inventory: which good thing in your life are you most tempted to lean your weight on for your standing with God — attendance, service, giving, devotions, doctrine, parenting, sobriety, reputation? What would it look like this week to keep doing that good thing while consciously resting your weight on Christ instead?

Further Reading: Luke 18:9–14; Philippians 3:4–11; Galatians 3:1–5; Colossians 2:16–23

5. Opening the doors and windows

Purging leaven meant opening every door, window, cupboard, and corner and letting the light in. Jesus says everything hidden will be revealed — the only questions are when and how.

Who in your life actually has permission to see into your cupboards and corners? If the honest answer is "no one," what's one specific step you could take before the group meets again — a conversation, a confession, an accountability relationship — to let some light in? And how can this group be a safe place for that rather than a "hypocrite factory"?

Further Reading: James 5:16; Ephesians 5:8–14; Hebrews 4:12–16; 1 Corinthians 3:10–15

6. Not a brand — brand new

At the height of His popularity, with a crowd trampling each other to get to Him, Jesus pulled back and aimed His hardest warning at His inner circle. "Jesus wasn't building a brand; He was making people brand new." He also told them not to fear those who can kill the body, but to fear God alone (Luke 12:4–7).

How does the fear of what people think quietly drive hypocrisy? What changes when the audience we're performing for is replaced by a Father who already knows the number of hairs on our head — and loves us anyway?

Further Reading: Luke 12:4–12; Proverbs 29:25; Galatians 1:10; John 12:42–43; 2 Corinthians 5:9–11

Use these blended questions for deeper personal reflection, prayer, or small group discussion.