

**I. Read Luke 11:42-44**

- A. In verse 42, Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for their hypocrisy by outward adherence to the law while remaining inwardly unchanged. Even their outward conformity to the law (such as the tithe) was done begrudgingly. With the hypocrisy of the Pharisees in mind, discuss the potential for one to stumble into a similar pattern of sin today.
- B. In verse 43, Jesus nailed the Pharisees with the accusation “you love the front seats of the synagogues and the respectful greetings in the market place.” His words should serve as a warning for all believers to examine their hearts before accepting positions of leadership in the church. Why?
- C. Read Mark 9:43-50 and discuss how this relates to the point made above.
- D. Read Acts 4:32-5:11 and discuss how the gift of Ananias and Sapphira differed from that of Barnabas.
- E. What lessons can be learned from the story of Ananias and Sapphira in regard to aspects of one’s life *other than finances*?
- F. In verse 44, there is an allusion to the Jewish laws that warned of defilement by touching a grave (they remained ceremonially unclean for seven days, Numbers 19:16). The Pharisees were likened to concealed graves which people might pass over or by, touching them unawares. The effect was to be defiled inadvertently. To avoid defilement, graves were whitewashed or marked so that they could be avoided. How were the Pharisees defiling the Jewish people?

- G. What are some examples in our day of people or groups which might also be likened to “concealed tombs”, defiling folks unawares?
- H. What are some areas in which all believers carry a great responsibility to maintain a true testimony?
- I. What are some red flags one should watch for in his/her life to avoid stumbling into the path the Pharisees followed?