

Do you Phari'see' yourself?

Mark 2:1-12

Introduction: The Pharisees were recognized as the most religious group of people in their day. They were the most cultured. They were wealthy, intelligent, educated, good citizens (they abided by the laws of the land), and society seen them as leaders of their particular cities. The word "Pharisee" means "separated one", and separated they were. I am sure there were many good Pharisees in that day, but there is no doubt that they held themselves to a higher standard, and let everyone know it. They controlled the synagogues, and religion of the day, and anyone that did things opposite of them, or opposite of what they saw as Godly or Holy, they would do their best to discredit that person. They were SOOO stuck in their ways that they couldn't change, but they knew exactly what to tell everyone else, and exactly how to everyone else to live.

I. They have a problem with everyone else.

+ Mark 2:7 - "Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?"

*Who does he think he is?

+ Mark 2:18 - "Why do the disciples of John and of the Pharisees fast, but thy disciples fast not?"

*When they didn't get their intended answer from Jesus, they attacked his friends.

II. They are jealous of others.

+ Mark 2:13 - "And he went forth again by the sea side; and ALL the multitude resorted unto him, and he taught them.

* Nobody stayed to listen to them in this particular situation. The verse uses the word "ALL", and where I come from, that means everybody.

* Jesus taught them. The people weren't listening to them, and they lost their power over the people. A Pharisee will always have a problem with someone taking their shine, but they will twist it into something that the person is doing wrong, instead of admitting that they're jealous, and simply can't handle it.

III. They try to get others on their side

+ Mark 2:18 - "And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans, and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners?"

*They were just talking about the disciples, and now they're trying to get them on their side. We are people in our church, or people that leave our church, that will try their best to discredit what we do here. They will attack our pastor, and leaders, and try their best to get others on their side. We must be ready to stand up for our church, and its leaders.

Conclusion: Do you Phari'see' yourself in this passage? Are you guilty of being jealous of others? Do you try to find fault with what everybody else is doing? When you don't get your way, do you try and convince others that you're right, and everyone else is wrong? If you can Phari'see' yourself in this passage, then it's time for a change within yourself. We as a church, will not be able to move forward until we as individuals can see ourselves for what we truly are, and decide that we need to change, and not everyone else.