

Inside Out
(Does the inside match the outside?)
Matthew 23:27-28
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Thesis: I want to show the importance of being a Christian who's outside matches the inside.

- Intro:
1. What happens when you have a puzzle and two pieces don't fit?
 - a. They don't match so they cannot go together right?
 - b. If you force it, it will only ruin the piece and the puzzle.
 2. Is a Christian life any different?

I. Cleansing the outside only (**Mt 23:25-26**)

A. The cup & dish

1. Could you imagine cleaning a casserole pan, but only the outside of the pan. Leaving the inside dirty, leaving dried food, etc in the pan. This is the idea with the cup and the dish.
2. Sure the outside may look clean, but a glimpse inside reveals its true nature.
 - a. Filthiness. These items are used here in relation to a person who may be thief or is selfish.
3. Hearts must be washed of wickedness (**Jer 4:14**).

B. White washed tombs (**Mt 23:27-28**)

1. Tombs, a place built to hold the dead could be built and maintain so that it looked nice on the outside.
2. He compares these men to these whitewashed tombs. They look nice, but inwardly they are full of filth and decay.

II. How to cleanse the inside (**Isaiah 1:16a**)

A. How do we cleanse the inside?

1. Recognizing that we have seen that we must remove.
2. Sin is the dirt and filth we sometimes try to conceal from others and from God.

B. Repentance

1. **Ezk 14:6** – turn from your sin and flee those things that cause you to sin.
2. **Joel 2:12-13a** – we are to turn our hearts to God, so that we can be clean inside and out.

III. Consequences of a mis-matched life.

A. We will be just like those in **Matthew 23:25-28**

1. We will have sin in our life that will separate us eternally from God.
2. We will be hypocrites if we are only Christians on the outside.
3. Why are some people like these mentioned in Matthew 23?
 - a. Never really converted?
 - b. Being Christian is too demanding to live right 24/7.
 - c. They do not fear God?

Application & Conclusion:

1. What about you? Are you a Christian inside and out?
2. If not, it's time you make the changes in your life before it's too late.
3. You may fool men, but you cannot fool God (**Gal 6:7**).
4. Full Invitation