

Matthew 23:27

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.

We all have our morning rituals that we go through during the week to get ready for the day. For me, it's a matter of taking a shower first thing, then sitting with the Lord, being in His word with a cup of coffee, then praying afterwards. Usually it takes about ten minutes for me to take a shower, and I spend at least an hour in the word and in prayer every morning. But what if I spent only ten minutes in God's word, and an hour taking a shower and getting ready for the day? Where are my priorities if I were to do that? Obviously they would all be on me and how I look outwardly, because I am spending more time on my outward appearance and less time on the inward.

Reading today's verse where Jesus said that "***you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly***" it reminds me of those who I talk to and tell me that they will read one verse a day as their devotional time, maybe two on a good day (All of 15 seconds). Yet I have to wonder if they only spend 15 seconds on their inward, how much time are they spending on the outward? I mean it takes more than 15 seconds to even decide what to wear or even get dressed. Yet how many spend more time getting ready outwardly and very little, if any time preparing spiritually (inwardly) for the day? Then they wonder why they struggle all the time.

It makes me think of the car that I have and that I bought brand new, which is a 2018 Honda. Well here it is, seven years later (2025) and if you were to see my car, you would think it was still brand new, because I take very good care of what God has blessed me with. But if all I did was wash and wax the outside of the car, treated the tires and cleaned the outside of the windows every week, but never cleaned the inside by vacuuming it or cleaning the windows inside or wiping down the inside, as soon as you go into my car, you would know it was not taken care of and no thought was put into the inside, because I would just want people to think that I have a cool car by seeing the outside only.

Or what if I never changed the oil or had it serviced, or even put the bare minimum of gas in it to get me to my destination? In time my car would break down because of lack of service, and there would be those times when I would have to go further than the amount of minimal gas I put into it, so I would be stuck because I did not prepare as I should have. But I do prepare, I get my car serviced right on time when it's due, and once I get to half a tank of gas, I fill it up again, always wanting to be prepared, and when I clean the outside, I clean the inside as well at the same time

Paul even told Timothy to be prepared (***Be ready***) "***Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.***" 2 Timothy 4:2

Jesus also tells us that:

- ✠ **Luke 11:39-40** *Then the Lord said to him, “Now you Pharisees make the outside of the cup and dish clean, but your inward part is full of greed and wickedness. Foolish ones! Did not He who made the outside make the inside also?”*

Yes, God made our outsides as well as our inside, and we even quote what God said; *“For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”* 1 Samuel 16:7b

So if we quote it and believe it, shouldn't we be living it as well by spending more on our inward appearance that God looks at, rather than our outward appearance that we try to impress man with?

- ✠ **2 Timothy 2:21** *Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.*
- ✠ **Ephesians 6:13 (MSG)** *Be prepared. You're up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it's all over but the shouting you'll still be on your feet.*
- ✠ **1 Peter 3:3-4** *Do not let your adornment be merely outward--arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel-- rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.*