INTRODUCTION: Jesus’ harshest criticism was not leveled against adulterers, drunkards, or idolaters but toward the religious establishment of His day. We discover why in today’s account of Jesus’ denunciation of the Pharisees.

I. The Pharisees
   A. The Meaning of “Pharisee”
   B. Their Goal
   C. Their Error

Matthew 15:7-9  “7 You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you saying,  8 ‘THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME.  9 BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.’”

A. Jesus’ Invitation  (Luke 5:27-28)

Luke 5:27  “And after that He went out, and noticed a tax-gatherer named Levi, sitting in the tax office, and He said to him, ‘Follow Me.’”

B. Matthew’s Celebration  (Luke 5:29)

Luke 5:29  “And Levi gave a big reception for Him in his house; and there was a great crowd of tax-gatherers and other people who were reclining at the table with them.”

C. The Pharisees’ Denunciation  (Luke 5:30-33)

Luke 5:30  “And the Pharisees and their scribes began grumbling at His disciples, saying, ‘Why do you eat and drink with the tax-gatherers and sinners?’”

Luke 5:31  “And Jesus answered and said to them, ‘It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick.’”

Luke 5:32  “I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”

Luke 5:33  “And they said to Him, ‘The disciples of John often fast and offer prayers; the disciples of the Pharisees also do the same; but Yours eat and drink.’”

D. Jesus’ Illustrations  (Luke 5:34-39)
1. The illustration of a wedding (Luke 5:34-35)

Luke 5:34 “And Jesus said to them, ‘You cannot make the attendants of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them, can you?’”

Luke 5:35 “But the days will come; and when the bridegroom is taken away from them, then they will fast in those days.”

2. The illustration of the garment (Luke 5:36)

Luke 5:36 “And He was also telling them a parable: ‘No one tears a piece from a new garment and puts it on an old garment; otherwise he will both tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old.’”


Luke 5:37-38 “37 And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins, and it will be spilled out, and the skins will be ruined. 38 But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins.”

III. Our Application

A. Evaluate All Advice You Receive by the Word of God

B. Tolerate Differences in Other Christians

C. Associate with Unbelievers

Conclusion