

ALL THE WORLDS A STAGE

From the series *Why Jesus Hates Religion*

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Reverend: When you came in you got a cup. Okay? That cup is going to be a little craft so don't write on it. But I got some cups here. This cup right here, what does this cup represent to you? All right, a cup a coffee, maybe the best cup of – you know, clearly you can get this cup of coffee most anyplace in the world. It might represent a space where you meet your friends. What's this cup represent? A better cup of coffee, exactly. It is – it is clearly a better cup of coffee. If you know this one over [inaudible 0:00:28] so what's that represent? Yeah, you know it. A cool cup of coffee. My son's into coffee and yet clearly king it's the son of Deitrichs?? That's a cool cup of coffee because he's into a whole bunch. And then this represents? The best cup of coffee because it's my friend. All right. So, today we're going to look at an incident where Jesus took a cup and He asked – and He said to people, He goes, "This cup represents your life, what does the cup say?" All right, so we're on a series titled *Why Jesus Hates Religion*. And so, if you pull out your Bibles, how many of you got your Bible? Hold them up. Look at you. Blessings to you because today you're going to write in the margins of your Bible and make your Bible a treasured tool. You're going to love it more. And those of you who did not bring it, it won't be a treasure, it will sit at home and be valueless to you.

So, Luke chapter 11. If you turn to Luke chapter 11, and we're going to look at uh this incident where Jesus took a cup and my question to you is this, "Does Jesus really hate religion?" Here he is in this incident. You tell me. Does this look like you know like He's kind of anti –antagonistic to religion? Here is says in verse 3 – You have it, Luke 11? If you can't find it in your Bible, ask a friend or look at the Table of Contents. It's uh the New Testaments' the last third of the Bible. It's Matthew, Mark, then Luke. Luke chapter 11 verse 37. You got it?

Congregation: Yes!

Reverend: I love you guys are so bright and intelligent. See how smart people are with their Bibles? You'd be smarter if you had your Bible.

"As Jesus was speaking, one of the Pharisees invited Him home for a meal. So He went in and He took His place at the table. The host was amazing to see that He sat down to eat without first performing the hand washing ceremony required by Jewish custom." It's not biblically, this is a religious thing. Jesus doesn't do the religious thing. "And then the Lord said to him, 'You Pharisees are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy, full of greed and wickedness. Fools! Didn't God make the inside a well as the outside? So, clean the inside by giving gifts to the poor and you will be clean all over.'" And then it says, "What sorrow awaits you Pharisees for you're careful to tithe even a – the smallest amount." Uh, but he goes but you know, "You neglect the more important things."

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If you just look through it. "What sorrow awaits you," "What sorrow awaits you," "What sorrow awaits you." And He repeats it over and again. So, what Jesus does in this passage is uh you know, when Jesus sits down to eat dinner, He doesn't you know – you walked into somebody's house, you washed your hands. Jesus isn't being non-sanitary. They've washed hands. But what – the

ceremonial washing was after you washed your hands, before you go and sit down to dinner, there was another bowl there and you'd walk over and with a very pious kind of attitude you'd say, "I know – you know, in your mind you're going, "There's all sorts of filth out there, there's sin and sinners and there's people thinking all sorts of bad things and they're doing wrong things. So I'm – and I do it in front of you, and I wash my hands going "I'm very clean. I'm cleaning my heart. And God clean me on the outside because there is sin out there. I'm very clean. I'm very, very – I'm cleaner than you. You know, I'm clean." And so the go through this kind of religious exercise as a way of saying, you know, "I'm clean."

And that's what religion does. Religion is our way of doing a ritual or taking on a regulation or some practice that says, "God, look at me, I'm doing this ritual, I'm doing this practice. See what I'm doing?" And God looks at you and goes, "Oh my, you are so good at doing what I've asked you to do. Now I'm going to love you and bless you." It's our way of closing the gap; it's us working to please God. And it's empty and Jesus hates religion. And you can see. Jesus goes in, sits down at the table and looks at this guy and it's like, "I'm not playing your foolish game." And why? Because He's saying to this guy, "You know, this religious hand washing thing you're going through, it's not working. It's not cleaning you. It doesn't make you righteous inside. It doesn't make you right with God. And worse than that, it makes you prideful. It makes you arrogant. And you're trusting in something that doesn't work at all." And you can imagine as Jesus sits down and this Pharisee is, you know, insulted. He's looking at Jesus going, "You're not doing the religious thing." Jesus takes a cup and says to him – and you can imagine at the dinner, you know, just taking a cup from the dinner table and He says, "You are so careful to clean the outside of a cup and to clean the outside of your life. You're so careful to make sure that you look great from the outside and people see, you know, this good thing. But the problem is, inside you are," – what's it say in the passage? Verse 37, 39, "You are filthy, you are wicked and full of greed." He says the problem is that inside – you know, Jesus is holding a cup going, "You're all filthy inside."

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Now just a quick question. If you had to have a cup that was dirty, would you want one that's dirty on the outside but clean on the inside so that when you're drinking out of it you know you're not getting contaminated? Or, would you want one that's contaminated on the inside and super clean on the outside? Come on, make your choice, it's not complicated. And so the point is, Jesus is saying – He says God made both. It's important that both are clean. But it's far more important that you are clean on the inside. And so Jesus is saying to this – you think Jesus hates religion? Yeah. He's saying – He goes, "It doesn't do anything for you, it's worthless, it's not changing your life."

And then from verses 42 to 53, which I'm not reading, but you can look at if you've got your Bible, He says – in the old King James it says, "Woe to you," which means, "How empty your life is," or "What sorrow awaits you." And He says, "What sorrow awaits you, how empty your life is, you spend all this time cleaning the outside, but the inside of your life is still dirty and wicked and there – you can't clean it." He says, "How empty your life," "Woe to you," "How sad for you," "What sorrow awaits for you." You tithe and you give even to the smallest herb, but the problem is, you don't have a generous heart. You aren't thankful that God was the one who has given you every good gift. You're giving as a way to buy off God, but you're not grateful. He says, "How sad for you. What a sorrowful life you have. How empty your life is." He goes on, because He says in this passage, "You can't clean a heart. You don't have forgiveness, there's no sense of peace. Inside



there isn't any transformation. And how said it is because in your religion, you've missed Me all together."

What can religious not do – Jesus said all religions lead the same place, but they don't lead to God. No religion leads to God. Jesus is saying the only way that you can have a relationship with God is through Me. I'm the only one who can clean a heart. I'm the only one who can make you right. It's not by works that you can do. You can't clean the outside to clean the inside. The only hope for a life change, change inside, is to come to Me. And so Jesus says, "Religion is worthless." And that's kind of what we talked about last week. But he says it in this very creative way.

And then He goes on in Luke 12, so that's kind of the last part of chapter 11 and then in Luke 12, He says the second thing. He goes – the reason why Jesus hates religion is that it contaminates our whole life with hypocrisy, it contaminates your heart, and it can contaminate your soul with hypocrisy. Now, maybe this is true for you, but when I talk to friends that don't regularly come to church or far from God, and they talk about how, you know, they're going through a desperate time, and their life is blowing apart because somebody in their life made a bad decision or they made a bad decision and life is just unraveling around them.

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Or, there's a hurt in their heart and there's loneliness, or sadness or brokenness, and they need a connection, they need a touch from the Divine. They need to connect with God. Or they need guidance, they're making huge decisions in life and they need truth to live by. You know people are in these difficult situations and I say to them, "I'm telling you, God's the answer. You should come to church." And as soon as I say it, they fly back and they look at me and go, "I'm not coming to church. The church is filled with ...

Congregation: Hypocrites

Reverend: See you have friends just like I do. All right. And what's amazing is when they say that, immediately I think, "You know, you just used a biblical word. Did you know that's a word in the Bible? You know, that comes from the Bible. That's the only way you use it." And uh and then the second thing that I think is, "I go, you know, what you hate about religion," I tell them, "Jesus hates that too." Jesus hates hypocrisy. And that kind of startles them and so look at this passage in Luke chapter 12 because you see how Jesus hates hypocrisy.

It says, "Meanwhile the crowds grew until thousands were milling about and stepping on each other." I mean, there's huge crowds following Jesus now. "And Jesus turned first to his disciples and warned them." Okay, so now as the crowds – people – he's starting to get popular. What's the biggest danger for his disciples? Here it is, "Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees, their hypocrisy." What is hypocrisy? It's acting, pretending, it's posing. All of sudden there's crowds and He says the biggest danger for you is you're going to start to pretend, the yeast of the Pharisees. "The time is coming when everything that is covered up will be revealed and all that is secret will be made know to all. Whatever have said in the dark, will be heard in the light, what you have whispered behind closed doors will be shouted from the housetops for all to hear."

Here is a warning. And Jesus is saying – he uses the illustration of yeast. And the Bible – you know what yeast does. What does yeast do? Causes the dough to rise. How much does it take? Very little bit. And in the Bible, yeast is picture of sin that contaminates and it only takes a little bit to contaminate everything. And so Jesus is saying, "Beware of just a little bit of hypocrisy. Just that little bit, just a little bit of pretending, a little bit of acting, a little bit of posing, will contaminate your whole life. It will destroy you." And then Jesus give this axiom, which is one of



the most – and if anybody – I mean the whole world knows this is true, but if there’s one group of people that should know it’s true, it’s us. Jesus says this axiom; it isn’t possible to hide anything. People know more than you think even before you say it. But when you think that you can cover up, you can keep a secret, He says, “You’re a fool.”

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He says, “What’s said in secret’s going to be shouted from the housetops, which you hide.” And you don’t even have to be a person believes the Bible to know that’s true. We see it happen all the time in your friends. Somebody thinks that they’re going to hide an affair and then all of a sudden it blasts out, everybody knows. Somebody thinks that they can cheat and you know, get away with it, and all of a sudden the finances come out and it’s blow apart. Politicians, I mean how many times do they have learn? You can’t lie; you’re going to be found out. And yet they do it. Even presidents, you can’t get away, there’s no secret keeping. Right? We get it, right? Yes or no?

Congregation: Yes.

Reverend: Then why do you keep your secrets? You know anybody here going, “No, I got no secret going right now.” Give me a break, everybody’s got a secret. And yet Jesus says, “All your secrets are going to be found out.” People know. Stop playing the game. And so what do you do if you keep a secret? You go to acting school. You’ve got to become a great actor. We all have secrets and we are actors and He says, “Beware of just a little bit of posing.”

A little bit of acting, just faking it for other people because the problem is – why do we act? Because there is who we say we are and then there is who we really are and there is this giant gap. So what do we do with the gap? That’s what Jesus is talking about. And the most dangerous thing to do with the gap between who we say we are and who we really are, is to act, to pretend, to become a hypocrite, to act like there isn’t this big gap. And that’s really what Jesus is talking about.

And that’s what religion is. Religion is this hypocrisy of just trying to manage it. It’s going, “Really I’m not that bad.” And so you create all these rules and regulations. So in Matthew chapter 6, and it’s on your outline, and I’m going to just highlight it for you and for extra credit you can go there. If you’ve got a Bible, you can flip there really quick, but I want you to stay in Luke 12. So keep your finger there, but I’ll kind of just summarize it for you and it’s on your outlines.

Matthew 6:1, Jesus said, “Watch out. Don’t do your good deeds publically to be admired by others.” Why? It’s an act and “you’re going to lose your reward from heaven – your reward from your father in heaven.” It’s not going to do what you really want it to do. He says, “Beware.” And then He goes on in this passage, you know, he says, “Don’t be actors.” Now, if you’re an actor – every actor needs two things. What are the two things a actor needs? A script and an audience. And once you’ve got a script, you know, you’ve got the play, what part am I supposed to play? And then you have an audience, you know, you can be an actor. And so, Jesus is illustrating that. And so he goes, “Watch out. Don’t do your good deeds in front of others.” And then He says, “You have the script.” And He illustrates it in three ways.

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He says, “There’s giving.” And He says – God says, “I want you to be a giver, I want you to be a generous person. I want you to know that I am the one who’s giving you every good thing. And I want you to honor me. I want you to be a giving person and in giving, in honoring Me, it’s going to make you a generous person.” That’s what God wants. The problem is we’re selfish and self-centered and we’re not generous and we don’t trust God. So we become religious and we give, but we don’t give for God, we give for the audience of people. And so He says to the Pharisees, “You hypocrites, you give – and He says, “and you go and you give in the synagogue and you give in the public square, and you blow trumpets.” Why would you blow trumpets when you give? Because who’s your audience? The people are. Are you tracking here? That shouldn’t be complicated. And so, you’re going to blow a trumpet so – and what does a trumpet do? It makes everybody go – you know, here bu bu ba ba [trumpet sound] and so if somebody was over there at an offering box and suddenly you hear this bu bu ba ba, everybody would go over there and he’d wave his check and go take a look right here. You know. Of course, you’d never give for that reason, right? You’d never want a plaque with your name on it or some kind of banquet thrown in your name because you gave a gift.

And he says what hypocrisy because – see you’re not generous the way God wants you to be. So, you’re not trying to please God, so instead you’re giving and you’re blowing a trumpet because what do you want people to do? [Clapping] “Well done. Bravo. You’re a generous person. You’re a giving person. Wooh. Yeah. You gave.” People are your audience. And He goes, “It’s just hypocrisy.”

The second thing he talks about is prayer, scripted prayer. You know you’re supposed to be a prayerful person and the reason God says you prayer [sic], is dependence upon God. God’s saying, “I am desperately dependent upon you.” But we don’t like to be dependent upon god, we like to be independent. We like to be strong. And so, people are our audience and so what do they do? They stood on the street corners and they prayed publically for all to hear so people could respond. How? [Clapping] “Well done. I’ve never heard a prayer like that before. All those ‘thees’ and ‘thous.’ Wow, you know how to do it. Oh wow, you know how to pray.” And so who are you praying to? People, not God. And it just becomes a script and it’s an act.

And then He talks about fasting, which you just all love to do. The Bible says you only have to fast one time a year. So you’re okay with this one. But, He says, if you’re going to fast, which fast was – the whole idea of fasting was to break the power of something in your life. To say, “God I don’t want this to control me. I want you to control me. I want to be hungry after You.” But people – you know, as heart – we don’t want to be desperate for God. So we can’t be that so we just act. And He says, “If you’re going to fast, then you know, look disheveled, have your clothes look ratty, look really hungry, just look sad so that at least people can know that you’re fasting and they can [clapping] “Well done, you’re a godly person. You’re giving – you’re fasting, you’re trusting God.” And so the people are the audience and it’s just an act. But we don’t do that, right?

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Right? So what’s the script? What’s the religious script? What are you supposed to do if you’re a good religious person? Read your Bible, good. Bring your Bible to church. Really well done. What else? Be in a small group. Well said. Rooted. You should be in Rooted. What else is the script of a

good Christian person? Tithe, be a giver, be a prayer, be a faster, be volunteer, be a servant, be a good person, be a loving person, be a compassionate person, be an attentive listener and say, "I'll pray for you." You are supposed to do all things. But the problem is, you're selfish, self-centered, you don't want to give, you don't want to send time, you want life your way. And so the danger is? To span the gap and be an actor because you're audience becomes these people.

I do that, you know, in my life. What's the biggest gap in your life? One of the biggest gaps for me as a pastor, you know everybody – I'm a pastor, that's you know, that's my script, right? So what should a pastor be? Like you don't know. Come on, tell me. What should I be? Perfect. Well said, I should be. All right? And what else should I be? Godly, quiet, loving, sensitive, holy, pure, above reproach, shepherd, teach God's word. So I stand up and I teach God's word. When I teach it, I got to say it the way it says it whether I live it. And the problem – and you know, and I am – I am some of those things. But in addition to those things I am also petty and small, I can get fussy, I have sin-filled, dark heart that God's transformed, but I still have that darkness, and I have fear of failure, and so I am all these things. And then you come up to me and you'll say, "Oh, Kenton, I loved how you taught God's word, God to spoke to you and you are such a great model and you are godly and loving." And it's intoxicating and I love it, and it's easy for me at that moment to go to acting school and go, "That's exactly who I am. That's what I am. That's right." And I'll act that way. And from a distance – you know, you get me at the right distance, I can be that. Mostly it's a really far distance, but you know – so I got, you know – and it just becomes – and that's the danger. Just a little bit.

What's your dangerous place? You know as a father, I'm a father and what should all father's be? Loving, sensitive, and "son or daughter, it's not about winning or losing, sport is the celebration of ability, you just do the best you can." Right? And you know, it just doesn't matter and I'm not tied up with your success and your grades. "It isn't about grades, it's about learning." And, "You know what? I want you to be whatever you want to be." That's what we all say. But, we get tied up and wants – you know some of that's true about us, but at the same time we – our kids success becomes a part of who we are. They've got to live through us and it becomes really dangerous. And so, we try to play this script and we act.

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You know, I'm a husband. So what's a good husband supposed to be? Kind, loving, sensitive, a great listener. And Laurie pretty much got all that.

And so there is this dangerous part of life that Jesus is saying, "The greatest" – and it's – and if there's anything that should be true about us, Jesus is saying that we people should not be able to say, the church is full of hypocrites, people that are acting. And what's the answer? What are we to do? Because we learn it early in life, it's just a part of what we do. We automatically pretend and we act in front of people. You know, we just supposed to vomit and go look at here's who I am, I'm a bad person. You know. What do we do?

Well Jesus gives us the answer, and it's in Luke 12. And those of you that have your Bible, you're going to mark this and love it and I'm so sad for those of you that don't. Look it. So, the first thing on the back of your outline you can see it and here it is. If you didn't get anything, you don't – you get lost all right, here's the most important thing out of this message. That you have got to change your audience. Live wanting to please God and you will live a fearless life. Change your



audience; live fearless. If you fear God, you will never fear people.

Look at what it says in Luke 12:4-5, “Dear friends, don’t be afraid of those who want to kill your body, they cannot do any more to you after that.” Kind of extreme, but it’s true. “But I tell you whom to fear. Fear God who has the power to kill you and to throw – and then throw you into Hell.” He’s the one to fear. Okay. Sounds extreme, but here’s the point. When you trust or fear or respect God, God is your audience, God alone if your audience, then you can live with courage in front of people. But when people are your audience and you fear them, you will never respect God, you will never honor God. And you will live a wasted life. Jesus is saying, Let go of the heaviness of trying to live with people’s expectations, to please people, living in fear that other people will think that you’re not enough or that you’re an embarrassing. Let go of that. At worst case – you know, if you let people down all they can do – you know is somebody really hates you man, maybe they can kill you, but it’s just in this life. But if you live for God – you know if you live for people, it’s this life and that’s it. But to live for God – if you don’t live for God, you live a wasted life. God’s the one who’s in control of eternity. He’s the one who says, “Your life is worthless.” You know, and “you’re thrown into the garbage heap” is literally what it’s saying. You’ve lived a wasted life.

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So He says, “Take on – Let go of the heaviness of trying to please people, embrace the lightness of coming to God.” Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you that are weary and heavy laden, I will give you rest. My yoke is easy and light.” You follow God, he says, that’s the one thing that you can’t lose. So it means that I don’t live for you. You’re not my audience. I don’t live to please you. It’s okay, you can affirm me because I’m not looking for your applause. You’re free to do it because it isn’t about you. It means that I’m living for God; God is the one person that I want to please. I want to know what He says, I want to know what His words says, so that I can live to Him.

Living for God does not mean that I walk into my job and say to my boss, “I don’t care what you say I’m doing, what I want.” You’ll get fired. It doesn’t mean that you can say, “You know what? I don’t care what other godly people – you know I don’t have to listen to counsel.” It doesn’t mean that you deny the facts. What it does mean is that you say, “I am not living for your applause. I’m not living for people’s applause. I am looking to God and I only want God’s applause.” That’s the number one thing. Then why would you do it? Why would you do that.

The second thing that He says is so – you know, if you put God in His place then you put people in their place, you’ll live fearlessly. And then you live fearlessly in God’s love. Look at what it says in Luke 12:6-7, “What is the price of five sparrows? Two copper coins. Yet God does not forget a single one of them,” one of the sparrows, and the very heads – “the very hairs on your head are all numbered.” So don’t be afraid, you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows.

This is where you’re going to mark your Bibles. When Jesus says, “You can buy five sparrows for two pennies,” here’s the context. In that day, you bought two sparrows for one penny, and so as good business people would do, they would motivate you because then what’s the price of four sparrows? Two pennies. But to motivate you to buy the four sparrows, they threw a fifth one in for free. So what is Jesus saying? “You go to the market and you buy five sparrows for two pennies.” And He says, “You know that one sparrow that’s thrown into the deal that’s thrown into the deal that you don’t think matters? That’s sparrow matters to me. And you’re much more important than all those sparrows.”

God says, “If you fear Me, if you love Me, you’ve got the one thing that you can never lose because I don’t treat you as that one that’s just thrown in. You’re not just part of the crowd, you’re not the forgotten, the unimportant, the one that doesn’t matter like the world says. You matter to Me. You’re more important than a whole flock of sparrows. I pay attention to the thing that you don’t care about. That one sparrow that’s thrown in, I care about that. How much more do I care about you. I love you. I love you.”

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Why am I going to fear God? Because He’s the only one who truly loves me and I’ll never lose His love. Because He didn’t love me because I was good and I earned it. He loved me when I was running the other way, didn’t want anything to do with Him and He sent his son Jesus to die on the cross to give me grace and forgiveness. I didn’t earn it. I didn’t deserve it. He loves me. He’s the one who love me.

And he gives a second illustration of His love. He says, “And I’m the one who’s counted the hairs on your head.” I have four sons, I have a wife, I think I love them more than anybody in the world and you know what I’ve never done? I’ve never counted the hairs on their head. I never have. And you love people and you’ve never counted their hairs on their head. And you know how you know God loves you more than anybody else? Because God has counted the hairs on your head. He loves you that much. He is that concerned about you that He has looked at every detail of your life and He says, “I have got this thing for you. I love you. I watch out for you. Why would you try – Why would you live for the applause of people that are going to let you down and they don’t love you, when I love you and I care for you and I never forget you.” He says, “You can live fearless when you live in my love and you make Me the one audience of your life.”

And then secondly, he says, “Then you throw away the world’s script.” Romans 12:2, “Don’t copy the behavior and the customs of this world.” This is out of Romans, not in that passage. “But let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you which is good and pleasing and perfect.” And what’s that verse? That’s our church verse for this year. It says don’t let the world press you into its mold. Don’t buy the world’s script that he’s saying, embrace God’s truth.

And when you do that, when God becomes your audience, and you throw away the world’s script then what can you do? It’s on your outlines. “Stop acting” is the right answer. I’ll go big again. Stop acting. So if you live – you know you say, “God is my audience and I’m throwing away the world’s script,” you can...

Congregation: Stop acting.

Reverend: You’re so smart, see you’re smart. You can stop acting and be honest because you know everything’s going to come out.

All right. So, one more time. You want to go through it one more time? Okay. This is so exciting. Nothing like a craft to build some excitement. All right? So take out your cup, this is going to be your little craft that you take home and it’s going to illustrate it. And I’ll tell you why this is important. If you just get – I gave you a pencil, you got a pen or pencil and a cup, if you just do this, this is going to illustrate something to you because every morning lots of us – the most wonderful people in the world drink coffee and you can kind go through this in your mind and go, “How am I going to live today?”

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So here's the deal. So just look at one side of the cup, we're just going to deal with one side first. All right? And you look at the cup, okay? And just put on the top of the cup, "Fear-filled, fear filled." Because? Who's my audience if I'm fear-filled? You're so smart, people. All right? So people are my audience. All right? So let's just go about that. When people are my audience – you know what's the Orange Country script? And you can do kind of some things. What's the Orange County script? I'll help you here, here's some pictures that will help you get a – all right? So, image. Second picture is, yeah cars, which one, you know do a little Bentley thing or Maserati or Ferrari dealer or Mercedes. What's the next one? Oh yeah, house. So draw a little house on your cup. You're not drawing on the cup. Or, is there one more? Or just, you're all about the arts because you're very quirky and you're wonderful. Okay, so. So, you know, you have that. But now – that's, that's the world's script. So you can do the world.

But then if you do that, what's the religious? So write "religious." What's the religious script? Okay. You're going to live fear-filled, people are your audience. What's the script? What do you have to be? What does religion say you have to be? You have to be a giver, you have to be holy, you got to be – come on. You got to read your Bible, you got to bring your Bible to church or Kenton's going to reject you, you got to be perfect, you got to be loving. Now these things aren't bad, they just are religious and they become the script. All right?

Now, on the inside, we're going to write on the inside of your cup. What does Jesus say is on the inside of your life? Yeah. Good, the Holy Spirit. So you can put the Holy Spirit. And Jesus is in there if you're a Christian so you can put Jesus. But what else did He say is in there? Greed, wickedness, and filthiness. Okay, anybody else want to do a little confession here? Lust, ooh, brave one.

Congregant: Kenton, I can't write on the inside of my cup.

Reverend: Yes you can. Right here, right there. Grow up. Anger, get over it. You can too, see how you can do it. Anger. You can. The pencil's ...

Congregation: [indistinct clamor 0:32:35]

Reverend: Well, I can, sorry. What you mean the pencil doesn't work?

Congregation: [indistinct clamor 0:32:40-41]

Reverend: All right, just write lots of garbage in there. All right? Greed, all right. If you were going to write, what other things would you write? Anger, shame, pride, ooh the mother of all sin, but in addition to that, we do have the Holy Spirit, we have Jesus, who's transforming my life. All right. So you got that? That's true of what's in the inside.

[0:33:07]

Now, on the other side of the cup. Okay? Not the fear-filled, write "fearless." We can write on the outside. So no fussiness out there. Fearless because who is our audience? God. Okay. So we love that. Okay now, let's – what's the truth? And you can just use symbols. You've got the cross. Jesus died on the cross, and loves me, not because I was good, but because He's good. And He gave me forgiveness. I have love. I am His loved child. I am adopted. It says, "I am – you know, I have hope, because we saw that He's going to provide for me, He's going to protect me. He's going to watch over me, has plans for me, to give me a hope and a future. Romans 8:1 says, "There's not condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus." What else are you going to write on there? So I've loved, I'm valued, I'm His loved child, I'm adopted, I have purpose, He has plans for me to bring hope and a future. And so, on this side I can be honest. All right? So, there's your craft.

Now this is how it works. Okay. People come up to you and the temptation – you know why do people call us “hypocrites”? Because people are our audience and we’re fear-filled and we bought into the script of Orange County or the religious script. And you go, that’s what you guy all are and you go – you look out and you go, “You know what? I am tempted every day to live a fear-filled life because of what the world says that I should be and because of what religion says that I should be.” But what can you do? You can turn the cup around and say, “But the truth is, I can live fearless because God is my audience.”

Now the truth is, there’s some ugly things inside of there. Right? And so when you see people, do you just show everybody what’s inside the cup? “Wow, look it, I’m terrible.” No, but there’s got to be a few people that you go to and you say, “This is true about me.” Just a few people who know everything about it because the great news is when you’re willing to admit that there’s shame, guilt, filthiness, sin in your life, just a few, you can honest with a few, then you’re being honest with God and you can confess it because God is the one who gives forgiveness. And only because you can find forgiveness and you can be honest, can you look at this side of the cup and say, “This is how I’m going to live. I’m going to live fearless. And God’s my audience because Jesus loved me and forgave me and He’s given me the Holy Spirit. And the truth is, I am His loved child. I am adopted, I have hope, He’s given me purpose for life, He has forgiven me and I don’t live in any condemnation.”

[0:35:56]

And so you know what? When I live on this side, I don’t have to live with hypocrisy. I can be honest. I’m not acting. I go – you know, somebody goes, “You’re just a hypocrite.” You go, “You know what? The truth about me is, I do want to act a certain way around you, and I know the script, but the reality is that I, I’ve got brokenness. There’s all sorts of things that I want to hide from you. Anytime people are honest, it’s a beautiful thing. I’ve never had a conversation with somebody that when they talk about hypocrisy and I’m just honest with my life, I’m broken, there’s things that I’m ashamed of, I’m not who I want to be. I’m a pastor and yet there’s other things that are true. But I talk about the hope and how God is transforming me. They never look at me and say, “You’re a hypocrite.” They say, “I can’t believe how honest you are and how transparent and real.”

We can change the world. We can change the world when we let go of hypocrisy and acting. When we embrace honesty and God is our audience and we embrace the truth, we can go out in the world and we can change the world. We absolutely can. That’s a good craft, isn’t it?

All right. So let’s stand up and sing. All right? You want to sing with me?

[Music 0:37:12-24]

[End of Audio]