

**“The Edge” Wednesday, March 17, 2010**  
**Looking Good, But Not Good**

Read [Matthew 23:25-28](#) together and answer the following questions.

1. Who are the Pharisees and what was their role back then?
2. Why is Jesus condemning the Pharisees in these verses?
3. The word "Hypocrite" comes from the Greek "**hupokrites (hoop-ok-ree-tace')**", meaning an actor under an assumed character; e.g., stage-player. A true hypocrite is one who pretends to be something he or she is not, and really has no intention of becoming. Hypocrisy is a concerted effort to mask our failures (otherwise known as “sin”) by making appearances look good. With that in mind, are you a hypocrite if you sin, or if you try to pretend you don't sin?
4. The Pharisees loved to be esteemed as more spiritual than others. How others saw them was far more important than moral values. They assumed that if the outside *looked* good, everything else must be good. Talk about how we see that today in our culture and even in our churches?
5. Where was the Pharisees focus? Where should their and our focus be (spiritual growth or behavior modification)?
6. Jesus tells us that true cleansing begins on the inside “in the heart” and expands to the outside. Discuss as a family how this would look in an individual's life.
7. Pray together as a family and ask the Holy Spirit to show you where you may have hypocritically maintained a condition of ‘inward hypocrisy’ through an ‘outward covering’ of religious beauty.
8. Discuss as a family what you will do this week to build your relationship with God and then hold one another accountable to do it.

For further discussion topics on this subject read the following:

- [Mark 7:1-4](#)
- [Luke 11:39-40, 44](#)