Not What You Seem

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INTRODUCTION

- I wasn't what I seemed. I wasn't a baseball scout. I was just a fan.
- When we claim or pretend to be something that we are not, scripture calls it hypocrisy.
- An actor was called a hypocrite. It literally was meant the idea of wearing a mask.

1 Claiming to Others That You're Righteous

Matthew 23:1–3; Matthew 23:25–27; 2 Corinthians 1:12

- The most obvious and what we might call the classical sense of hypocrisy is you claiming or telling others that you're righteous.
- He used the strongest language of condemnation for those who were pretending to be right.
- Pretending to be a follower of God is not the same, and will not have the same results of a true follower of God.
- Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, for you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they're full of extortion and self-indulgence.
- God has never accepted the pretense, pretending to follow him. God has always demanded sincerity.
- Simplicity in this meaning simply means what you see is what you get.

2 Deceiving Yourselves

James 1:21–25

- It's left up to me alone whether I'll do that or not. And so that value of my self awareness and of my conscience cannot be underestimated.
- And so it's important that we examine ourselves.
- Be doers of the word and not hearers only. Deceiving yourselves.
- There's that danger that I'm not just trying to fool you, I'm trying to fool myself.
- It's possible for you to fool yourself into thinking that you're the way you ought to be.
- The word of God that will show us for who and what we really are. And so don't fool yourself. Be honest about your standing before God.

3 Trying to Convince You That I'm Okay

Acts 2:42–45; Ephesians 4:29; 2 Corinthians 12:7–9

- An equally dangerous form of hypocrisy is me trying to convince you that I'm okay.
- This is not me hiding my sin from you. This is me hiding my vulnerability, my weakness, my needs.
- Part of the purpose of God putting them together was so that they could help each other.
- It also requires me vulnerably raising my hand and saying, I need help.

- That's going to require me taking off the mask. Not the mask of self-righteousness that the scribes and Pharisees wore, but an equally dangerous mask of, I'm okay, I don't need you.
- My grace is sufficient for you. For my strength is made perfect in weakness.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **May God help us to be real to one another, to be vulnerable, to raise that hand and say, I'm weak, and I need help.**

MY NOTES