

Alton Baptist Church e-Service 14th June 2020

You hypocrites

Let us rejoice that we are able to share this e-service together even if we cannot meet and are maybe using it at different times.
Let us seek to praise God and enjoy fellowship with Him

Song: In Christ alone

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ENtL_li4GbE

Prayer:

Thank you Lord for this opportunity to enjoy your word and seek to draw nearer to the Lord Jesus. You are a great God and we wish to draw comfort and encouragement in You and the provision the Lord Jesus has made for us. Thank you that you care about our physical needs and that we see it in the Lord's many miracles. Thank you even more that you care about our spiritual needs and have made provision for us both in this life and eternity with our Saviour.

Song: Cornerstone

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvLxZEU02uI>

Intercessory prayers:

Let us pray for each other

Let pray for all who we know who are unwell or suffering in any way.

Let us pray for our nation and its rulers

Let us pray for all we rely on.

Let us pray for those seeking a solution to the coronavirus pandemic.

Let us pray for the things the Lord has put on our minds.

Song: All I once held dear

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oxpPIa-BskY>

Reading: Matt 22:15-22

15 Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. **16** They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians.

'Teacher,' they said, 'we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. **17** Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the poll-tax[a] to Caesar or not?'

18 But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, '**You hypocrites**, why are you trying to trap me? **19** Show me the coin used for paying the tax.' They brought him a denarius, **20** and he asked them, 'Whose image is this? And whose inscription?'

21 'Caesar's,' they replied.

Then he said to them, 'So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's.'

22 When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

The Subject today is, "You hypocrites".

I have never thought much about the reasons for hypocrisy, but today's subject title has made me think about it.

Why do people become hypocrites?

For some, they have status and position and are determined to defend it. Many Jewish leaders were like that.

For others there are things in their lives that they want to hide, because for some reason they are shameful. We will see what the Lord says for such people.

Others have worked very hard to be respected and, as they think, right with God. We will have little think about that later.

As we look at the passage we see men who hated Jesus because they saw him as threat to their worldly position. Jesus calls them hypocrites because they have not recognised their true position in this world. "Show me the coin for the taxes". Even in this world these men were not as great as they claimed. There was a higher authority on whom they often depended. Caesar gave them security and the administration of Justice. They were not grateful for it but dared not say so. Jesus said, "Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar". That message still applies today. We obey our rulers as far as we honourably can because God has given us rulers for our own good.

"Give to God the things that are God's". On another occasion Jesus made the point that their ancestors had ignored and persecuted God's prophets. They needed to be humble before God and accept those He had sent.

We will shortly look at another passage which I think was intended to help the other two groups.

People who have things in their lives which fall short of God's standards. They will sometimes compare themselves with those whose lives are worse than their own. Look there are people worse than me. Almost everybody can do that if they wish but it is a wrong position. Other people are aware of God's standards and have worked very hard indeed to conform to them. They may be very unwilling to admit that they still fall short. I think that it is probable that Satan is using an approach with them that our intelligence services used against the Nazis for D Day. They knew they could feed the Germans false intelligence quite easily. There was problem. When D Day dawned and the invasion began the Germans would realise they had got things wrong. The solution was simple. Feed the Germans intelligence bit by bit so they had to work very hard to put the picture together. Then they would be loath to admit they were wrong. It worked. Is Satan making use of the hard work these people have done to hide their real need?

Reading: Luke 18:9-14

9 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: **10** 'Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. **11** The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: "God, I thank you that I am not like other people – robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like this tax collector. **12** I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get."

13 'But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, "God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

14 'I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.'

Reading: 1 John 1:5-10

5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. **6** If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. **7** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

Jesus wants us all to realise our need of forgiveness and cleansing. John in his first letter reminds us that this need is not always the first reason we come to Jesus, too many think that they are righteous, whereas they are

weak and fallible, or in some cases hypocrites. The tax collector was cleansed because he came in humility and sought forgiveness. The Pharisee was not. Indeed it may be that God did not even listen to him.

We have a wonderful Saviour and our hope is in Him because He is perfect, and loves us, and has paid the price for our sin.

Song: Before the throne of God above

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EQ6QaZcPphM>

Dear Lord us grant us your blessing and fill us hope and love for You.
Amen