

## The Gospel of Luke

### Exposing the Wickedness of a False Religious System

Luke 11:45-54

1. The **Architects** of a False Religious System (vs.45-46)  
These lawyers were Pharisees who were the scholars and chief teachers of the people. They were known for their theological precision and tenacity (Matt 22:34-36; Luke 5:21).
2. The **Activities** of a False Religious System (vs.46, 52)
  - A. They Add Extra Burdens to the Scriptures (v.46a)  
The traditions and rituals prescribed by the Pharisees were not individually oppressive, but the number of them was unbearable (Acts 15:10). These added traditions, even if followed, direct the people away from God instead of toward Him (Mark 7:11-13; Luke 11:42).
  - B. They are Unwilling to Aid with those Burdens (v.46b)  
The Pharisees held themselves aloof from others and they unwilling to touch the burdens that they heaped upon others. For themselves, the Pharisees had found many loopholes that enabled them to get around their rules (cf. Matt 23:16).
  - C. They Actively Hinder People from Finding Salvation (v.52)  
A scribe could correctly answer specific theological questions (Mark 12:32-33), but they had failed to understand the meaning of those answers (Matt 9:11-13; 12:1-7). This failure has prohibited them from receiving salvation, and their teaching of these things has hindered many others from salvation (Matt 23:37).
3. The **Assessment** of a False Religious System (vs.47-51)
  - A. They are Like Those Who Killed the Prophets (vs.47-48)  
The scribes claimed to be the successors of the prophets while their lives demonstrated them to be the successors of those who killed the prophets.
  - B. They Bear the Guilt of All Previous Prophet Killers (vs.49-51)  
Jesus proclaimed that God would judge that generation for all of the mistreatment of His prophets.
4. The **Answer** of a False Religious System: Plotting to Kill Him (vs.53-54)  
The Pharisees response to Jesus' rebuke was to increase their antagonism. Though they were peerless in their knowledge about God, they did not know Him. The more that they actually got to know Him, the more they hated Him.