

cared little about God, and was only *saying* a prayer. Very often he would think, "Have I been kneeling long enough? I must not rise too soon:" and he would remain upon his knees a good long while, to make people think that he loved to pray. He was a little Pharisee.

The goodness of the Pharisees was all outward; but God looks to the heart. What they did was to be seen of men, not to please God. They prayed often—and it is right to pray—but God hated their prayers. Why? Because they prayed to be seen of men; not because they loved God. They wanted people to say, "How very good these Pharisees are." They loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

On the Sabbath they went to the synagogue; not because they loved God's day, or his house, but to be seen of men. And they were careful not to speak bad words. Why? Not because bad words are hateful to God; but because people would have said, "What bad men these Pharisees are."

The Pharisees, too, washed often—and it is right to be cleanly—but they attended more to their hands than their hearts; more to their outward conduct than to their thoughts.

When Jesus was on earth, a Pharisee one day asked him to dinner, and he went in and sat down to meat. And when the Pharisee saw it, he marvelled that he had not first washed. The Lord, knowing his thoughts, said unto him, "Now do ye Pharisees make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but your inward part is full of ravening and wickedness."

The Lord's words should teach us as well as the Pharisee. A cup, washed on the outside, and nicely gilded and painted, as some cups are, looks clean and beautiful; and one might say, "What a pretty cup!" and might wish to use it. But if you saw the inside to be full of mire and filth, you would say, "What an abominable cup!" and if you were offered a drink from it, you would say, "No, no," and push it away very quickly.