

Matthew 15:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,

Analysis

Jesus' designation 'hypocrites' (Greek 'hypokritai'—actors, pretenders) is devastating. Their outward religious performance masked inward rebellion against God's Word. The term connects to Isaiah's prophecy, showing this isn't a new problem but Israel's recurring sin. Reformed doctrine emphasizes that external religiosity without heart transformation is worthless before God. True worship requires regeneration, not mere ritual conformity. The Pharisees exemplify dead orthodoxy—correct external forms with unregenerate hearts.

Historical Context

Jesus quotes Isaiah 29:13, spoken during Hezekiah's reign when Judah faced Assyrian threat. Then as now, people drew near with lips while hearts remained far. The LXX (Septuagint) version Jesus likely quoted emphasizes teaching human precepts as doctrines. This pattern of formalism plagued Israel throughout its history.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What areas of your spiritual life involve 'going through the motions'?
2. How can you cultivate genuine heart worship versus performance?
3. What makes someone a hypocrite rather than a struggling believer?

Interlinear Text

ὑποκριταί καλῶς Προεφήτευσεν περὶ ὑμῶν Ἡσαΐας
Ye hypocrites **well** **did** **of** **you** **Esaias**
G5273 G2573 G4395 G4012 G5216 G2268

λέγων
saying
G3004

Additional Cross-References

Mark 7:6 (Parallel theme): He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.