Luke11:44“Woe to you! For you are like concealed tombs, and the people who walk over them are unaware of it.”

In school I’ve been studying Biblical Interpretation.

One of the more eye-opening things about this class I how little you can fully grasp just by reading the bible word for word.

There is so much information buried in the context that we can dig into.

We have to realize who wrote what we read, who they wrote it for, and why.

We have to try to understand the culture, the traditions, the location, the way of life for these people.

Let’s take a look at that verse again.

So, just to give you an idea as to what’s going on here, Jesus is at lunch with a Pharisee.

The Pharisee invited Jesus to lunch to try to find ways to get at Jesus, to find flaws, to prove He’s a liar.

Jesus sits down at the table and basically reads the Pharisee’s mind.

Jesus didn’t wash His hands! Gasp!

Now, let me explain something here.

The Pharisee is regarding his religion over his religion.

He is holding his traditions over his faith.

Before this guy can attack Jesus, Jesus lays into him.

I love this passage because we get to see Jesus’ stern side, and rightly so!

These guys are giving Him and His Dad a bad name!

So, let’s read that verse again.

Luke11:44“Woe to you! For you are like concealed tombs, and the people who walk over them are unaware of it.”

When I first read it, I thought this was talking about them being unimportant.

Like, you’re dead, buried, no one knows you, no one cares.

But if we make sure this very is contextually accurate and we understand their culture a little more, it comes into a completely different, convicting verse.

Conviction is actually a good thing, did you know that?

Conviction is an opportunity for repentance, a sign of love, potential.

Conviction has a future.

Conviction is a learning experience where the Holy Spirit reaches you to teach you, to give you wisdom, to help you grow.

Condemnation is when you a torn apart and reprimanded.

You see, the enemy condemns.

Revelation 12:10… For the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.

Romans8:1Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

In that time, in that culture, they did not have roadside conveniences like we do.

If a storm would come in, a family traveling along the road would seek shelter in a cave.

But these same caves would also be used to bury dead.

What happens when that family walks into that cave?

Numbers 19: 14‘This is the law when a man dies in a tent: everyone who comes into the tent and everyone who is in the tent shall be unclean for seven days.

Then what happens?

Numbers 19:20‘But the man who is unclean and does not purify himself from uncleanness, that person shall be cut off from the midst of the assembly, because he has defiled the sanctuary of the LORD; the water for impurity has not been sprinkled on him, he is unclean.”

Therefore, that family becomes unclean, defiled.

Likewise, the Pharisees are like these unmarked graves in that they are causing others to become unclean, to become defiled.

The Pharisees are selling their religion and defiling others.

No wonder Jesus was upset!

These guys were heading people straight to their death.

Now, why is this convicting?

Because we must be careful to be unlike these Pharisees.

We must make sure we too do not cause others to become unclean.

We must not be like stumbling blocks to others.

Romans 14:21It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles.

We must be good examples to those around us

We have to realize that we are God’s spokespeople.

Others look to us, knowing we call ourselves Christian, Christ-like, and seek to find our faults.

They seek to find the world in us so they can then say, “Oh, he’s a hypocrite. He’s just like everyone else.”

That is absolutely a dangerous idea.

That we, our actions, can actually turn people away from God.

Sometimes we fail to realize the responsibility we have as believers to everyone around us.

We have a holy responsibility to God.

When we live hypocritical lives, we might be like the Pharisees.

We may be corrupting others, infecting others.

We are being looked at, judged even.

We need to search within ourselves and seek to avoid being that negative influence.

Let’s pray: God. Humbly we come before you, submitting ourselves to you. We appreciate the conviction of Your word. God, we ask that You help us to overcome the darkness of this world and properly reflect You light. We ask that You bless us and our time together. We give You this time of practice. We love You and trust You. Amen.