

YOUR CHURCH GAME WON'T SAVE YOU

September 28, 2025 // Alicia Bruxvoort + Landyn Beal

BIG IDEA: There is no counterfeit for the presence of God

KEY SCRIPTURES:

1 Samuel 16:7

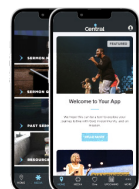
John 10:10

Matthew 23: 2-4

Matthew 23:23

Matthew 23:25-28

1. In what ways do you think we are most tempted to “settle for counterfeits” in our faith today? What do those counterfeits look like in everyday life?
2. Jesus warns the Pharisees about cleaning the “outside of the cup” while neglecting the inside. What are some ways we might be guilty of doing the same thing in our spiritual lives?
3. How do we balance the value of spiritual practices (Bible study, prayer, worship) without letting them become just “rituals” instead of avenues that connect us to God?
4. The Pharisees knew Scripture well but missed Jesus standing right in front of them. What might cause us to miss Jesus even while doing “all the right things”?
5. The analogy of the fake doctor’s lab coat showed how easy it is to “look the part” without actually being transformed. Where in your life do you feel the temptation to “look Christian” rather than “become like Christ”?
6. Jesus’ words in Matthew 23 feel harsh, but they were really urgent and filled with love. How do you personally respond when God confronts you about areas where your faith may be counterfeit?
7. What practices or rhythms help you focus on cultivating an inside-out faith rather than an outside-in one?



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