Date: 8/17/19

Title: Inside Out Christians

Theme: God wants to forgive us so that we don’t have to hide our sins.

Object: Banana, onion, sharp knife, cutting board

Text: Matthew 23:27-28 (NKJV) 27 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. 28 Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

These were some very strong words that Jesus spoke to the scribes and Pharisees.

He called them hypocrites!

Do you know what a hypocrite is?

A hypocrite is a person who pretends he is very good and always obeys God.

He wants everybody to think how good he is.

But in his heart, he is a sinner who disobeys God when others are not looking.

Now does Jesus want us to be good? Absolutely.

But He wants us to be good both on the outside and on the inside.

He wants us to be good when others are looking and also when no one is looking.

God sees us all the time, and He knows what is in our hearts.

Now there is a danger with being a hypocrite and pretending that we never do anything wrong.

The danger is that when we sin by disobeying God, we won’t admit it. We’ll pretend we didn’t sin.

And when we don’t admit our sin and ask God to forgive us, our sins don’t get forgiven.

God only forgives us when we admit that we have done something wrong and ask Him to forgive us.

There is a saying that is very important that goes like this: “Christians aren’t perfect, they are just forgiven.”

So when we do something to disobey God, it is important to tell Him we are sorry and ask Him to forgive us.

God doesn’t want us to be proud of how good we are; He wants us to be proud that we know Jesus and Jesus keeps on forgiving our sins.

I brought two pieces of food with me today. One’s a fruit and one is a vegetable.

First the banana: I’m going to cut the banana in two so we can look at the insides too.

You can see that the banana is different on the inside than on the outside.

The inside is sweet and very good to eat, but the outside is tough and bitter.

Would anyone like to eat the skin? How about the inside?

Wouldn’t it be nice if the banana was sweet and good to eat on the outside too?

Now the vegetable I’ve brought with me is an onion. It’s not very good to eat raw, but cooked it is very flavorful and sweet.

The onion doesn’t have a skin on the outside. It’s the same all the way through.

If you peel the outside layer off the onion, the next layer looks just the same, only smaller.

God wants you to be sweet like the banana but the same on the outside as on the inside like the onion.

And here’s the good news: Jesus can make you as sweet on the inside as you look on the outside on Sabbath morning.

If we trust Jesus and love Him and obey Him, He will forgive us of all our sins and make us sweet like Him.

Then we can be onion Christians, as nice on the inside as we are on the outside.

What do you say, do you love Jesus? Let’s ask Him to make us beautiful on the inside too.