

FORMATION IN THE WAY OF JESUS

EPHESIANS 4:1 | ERIC SIMPSON | AUGUST 9, 2020

Ephesians 4:1

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

worthy = *axios* = to be of equal weight, balancing of the scales

- *Ephesians 1-3* (this is who you are)
- *Ephesians 4-6* (now live accordingly)

Becoming in character who you are in identity.

spiritual formation = the process by which the human spirit/heart/will is given a definite form or character

“I try to live my life in such a way, thinking what would Jesus would do if he were I.” – Dallas Willard

When the scale (*axios*) is out-of-balance...

Matthew 23:25-26

²⁵ Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. ²⁶ Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

Matthew 23:27-28

²⁷ Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. ²⁸ In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

“We must empty ourselves of all that fills us so that we may be filled with what we are empty of.” – St. Augustine

hypocrites = stage actors, pretending to be someone you aren’t

Examining who you are becoming...

- **Practices** = Scripture reading, prayer, silence, serving
- **Experiences** = retreats, camps, worship services, prayer gatherings, classes
- **Relationships** = mentors, friends, life groups, family