

**“Woe to you”**

**Luke 11:37-54**

# **“Woe to you”**

**Luke 11:37-38**

**37** When Jesus had finished speaking, a Pharisee invited him to eat with him; so he went in and reclined at the table. **38** But the Pharisee was surprised when he noticed that Jesus did not first wash before the meal.

**“Woe to you”**

**“Especially for ceremonial  
cleansing, not commanded in  
the law, but added in the  
traditions of the Pharisees.”**

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# **“Woe to you”**

**Luke 11:39-41**

**39** Then the Lord said to him, “Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. **40** You foolish people! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also? **41** But now as for what is inside you — be generous to the poor, and everything will be clean for you.

# **“Woe to you”**

**“These Pharisees were more concerned about keeping ceremonies than about being moral... The inside of a person (the heart and inner righteousness) is more important than the outside (ceremonial cleansing).”**

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# **“Woe to you”**

## **Luke 11:42-44**

**42** **“Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.**

**43** “Woe to you Pharisees,  
because you love the most  
important seats in the synagogues  
and respectful greetings in the  
marketplaces. **44** “Woe to you,  
because you are like unmarked  
graves, which men walk over  
without knowing it.”

# **“Woe to you”**

## **Matthew 23:1-7**

**1** Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: **2** “The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. **3** So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach.



**4** They tie up heavy loads and put them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them. **5** "Everything they do is done for people to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long;

**6** they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; **7** they love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to have men call them 'Rabbi.'

# **“Woe to you”**

**“The Jews whitewashed their tombs so that no one would accidentally touch them and be defiled. Just as touching a grave resulted in ceremonial uncleanness, so also being influenced by these misguided religious leaders could lead to moral uncleanness.”**

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# **“Woe to you”**

**Luke 11:45-46**

**45** One of the experts in the law answered him, “Teacher, when you say these things, you insult us also.” **46** Jesus replied, “And you experts in the law, woe to you, because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them.

# “Woe to you”

**Mark 12:38-40**

**38** As he taught, Jesus said, “Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, **39** and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. **40** They devour widows’ houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. Such men will be punished most severely.”

**“Woe to you”**

**“By adding rules and regulations to the authentic law of Moses and doing nothing to help other’s keep them, while inventing ways for themselves to circumvent them.”**

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# **“Woe to you”**

## **Luke 11:47-51**

**47** “Woe to you, because you build tombs for the prophets, and it was your ancestors who killed them. **48** So you testify that you approve of what your ancestors did; they killed the prophets, and you build their tombs.

**49** Because of this, God in his wisdom said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and others they will persecute.' **50** Therefore this generation will be held responsible for the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the beginning of the world,



**51** from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, this generation will be held responsible for it all.

# **“Woe to you”**

**“Outwardly these “experts in the law” appeared to honor the prophets in building or rebuilding memorials, but inwardly they rejected the Messiah the prophets announced. They lived in opposition to the teaching of the prophets, just as their ancestors had done.**

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# **“Woe to you”**

## **Luke 11:52**

**52** “Woe to you experts in the law, because you have taken away the key to knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you have hindered those who were entering.”

# **“Woe to you”**

**“The very persons who should have opened the people’s minds concerning the law obscured their understanding by faulty interpretation and an erroneous system of theology. They kept themselves and the people in ignorance of the way of salvation.”**

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**“Woe to you”**

**Matthew 23:13**

**13 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.**

# **“Woe to you”**

## **Luke 11:53-54**

**53** When Jesus went outside, the Pharisees and the teachers of the law began to oppose him fiercely and to besiege him with questions, **54** waiting to catch him in something he might say.

**“Woe to you”**

**“The determination of the religious leaders to trap Jesus is evident throughout [the Gospel of] Luke.”**

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# Applications

## Be a Berean

**Acts 17:11**

**11** Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.



# Applications

## Be a doer of the Word

### James 1:22-25

**22** Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. **23** Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror

**24** and, after looking at himself,  
goes away and immediately  
forgets what he looks like. **25** But  
whoever looks intently into the  
perfect law that gives freedom,  
and continues in it — not  
forgetting what they have heard,  
but doing it — he will be blessed  
in what they do.

# Final Thoughts

## 2 Timothy 4:3-4

**3** For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. **4** They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

# Final Thoughts

## Matthew 7:15-20

**15** “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. **16** By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles?”

**17** Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. **18** A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. **19** Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **20** Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.