



Jesus Pronounces 6 Woes Against Pharisees and Lawyers

Luke 11:37-54

Presented by Bob DeWaay
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Jesus transgresses an oral tradition

- **Luke 11:37, 38**

Now when He had spoken, a Pharisee asked Him to have lunch with him; and He went in, and reclined at the table. When the Pharisee saw it, he was surprised that He had not first ceremonially washed before the meal.



External piety with internal defilement

- **Luke 11:39, 40**

But the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and of the platter; but inside of you, you are full of robbery and wickedness. You foolish ones, did not He who made the outside make the inside also?"

 The antidote to “greed and wickedness” is repentance leading to generosity

- **Luke 11:41**
But give that which is within as charity, and then all things are clean for you.
- **Proverbs 28:22**
A man with an evil eye hastens after wealth And does not know that want will come upon him.

 Woe # 1: Neglect of love for God and neighbor

- **Luke 11:42**
But woe to you Pharisees! For you pay tithe of mint and rue and every kind of garden herb, and yet disregard justice and the love of God; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.

 Talmud lists 7 types of Pharisees

- “Shoulder” Pharisee
- “Wait-little” Pharisee
- “Bruised” Pharisee
- “Hunched Over” Pharisee
- “ever-reckoning” Pharisee
- “God-fearing” Pharisee
- “God-loving” Pharisee

(From Robert Stein commentary on Luke)

 Woe # 2: Self-aggrandizement

■ **Luke 11:43**

Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the chief seats in the synagogues and the respectful greetings in the market places.

 Woe # 3: Preaching purity while creating impurity in others

■ **Luke 11:44**

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

 Woe # 4: Making themselves unauthorized lawgivers

■ **Luke 11:45, 46**

One of the lawyers said to Him in reply, "Teacher, when You say this, You insult us too." But He said, "Woe to you lawyers as well! For you weigh men down with burdens hard to bear, while you yourselves will not even touch the burdens with one of your fingers."



Woe # 5: Claiming to adore the prophets while rejecting and killing The Prophet

■ **Luke 11:47, 48**

Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets, and it was your fathers who killed them. So you are witnesses and approve the deeds of your fathers; because it was they who killed them, and you build their tombs.



Jesus predicts that His apostles and prophets will be treated like the prophets of old.

■ **Luke 11:49**

For this reason also the wisdom of God said, "I will send to them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and some they will persecute,"



Corporate solidarity in guilt

■ **Luke 11:50, 51**

" . . . so that the blood of all the prophets, shed since the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the house of God; yes, I tell you, it shall be charged against this generation."



Woe # 6: Withholding the true interpretation of God's Word

■ **Luke 11:52**

Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge; you yourselves did not enter, and you hindered those who were entering.



A new level of antagonism toward Jesus

■ **Luke 11:53, 54**

When He left there, the scribes and the Pharisees began to be very hostile and to question Him closely on many subjects, plotting against Him to catch Him in something He might say.



Applications

- 1) We must not practice external piety with impure hearts
- 2) We must avoid seeking to elevate our own status in the eyes of others
- 3) We must listen to God's words and share them with others

 1) We must not practice external piety with impure hearts

■ **Titus 1:14, 15**

not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth. To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.

 1) We must not practice external piety with impure hearts

■ **Micah 6:7, 8**

Does the Lord take delight in thousands of rams, In ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I present my firstborn for my rebellious acts, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?

 2) We must avoid seeking to elevate our own status in the eyes of others

■ **John 12:42, 43**

Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God.



2) We must avoid seeking to elevate our own status in the eyes of others

■ **Matthew 6:1, 2**

Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven. So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.



3) We must listen to God's words and share them with others

■ **2Timothy 2:15**

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.



3) We must listen to God's words and share them with others

■ **2Timothy 3:16, 17**

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.
