

Woe to the Scribes and Pharisees *Part 3*

Matthew 23:37-39

The Woes

- Jesus publicly denounced the scribes and Pharisees. ***Matt 23:13-36***
 - Woe: They had “*shut up the kingdom of heaven against men.*” ***vs 13***
 - Woe: They had devoured widow’s houses while pretending to be godly through long prayers. ***vs 14***
 - Woe: They would go to great effort to proselyte a person. Yet, they would “*make him twice as much a son of hell*” as themselves. ***vs 15***

The Woes

- Jesus publicly denounced the scribes and Pharisees. ***Matt 23:13-36***
 - Woe: They would make a distinction in oaths were there was no difference. ***vs 16-22***

The Woes

- Jesus publicly denounced the scribes and Pharisees. ***Matt 23:13-36***
 - Woe: They would pay attention to small details while neglecting the important matters. ***vs 23-24***
 - *Mint, anise (dill), and cummin were some of the smallest crops harvested. Lev 27:30*
 - *The Pharisees were meticulous to pay tithes on this garden herbs.*

The Woes

- Jesus publicly denounced the scribes and Pharisees. ***Matt 23:13-36***
 - Woe: They would pay attention to small details while neglecting the important matters. ***vs 23-24***
 - *However, they neglected weightier matters: justice, mercy, and faith.*
 - *They used the law to their advantage. Cf. vs 14*
 - *They neglected the teachings regarding how to treat others as well as their faithfulness to the Lord.*

The Woes

- Jesus publicly denounced the scribes and Pharisees. ***Matt 23:13-36***
 - Woe: They were more concerned with the externals. ***vs 25-26***
 - *For matters of purity, the whole of the dish needed to be cleaned. Cf. Mark 7:4*
 - *The Lord spoke about wiping Jerusalem as a man wipes a dish. 2 Kings 21:13*

The Woes

- Jesus publicly denounced the scribes and Pharisees. ***Matt 23:13-36***
 - Woe: They were more concerned with the externals: The dirty dish. ***vs 25-26***
 - *The Pharisees and scribes would wipe only the outside of the cup, leaving the filthy.*
 - *The metaphor represents the person. They were concerned only with external appearances.*
 - *They needed to clean the inside first. Cf. Mark 7:14-23*

The Woes

- Jesus publicly denounced the scribes and Pharisees. ***Matt 23:13-36***
 - Woe: They were more concerned with the externals: Whitewashed tombs. ***vs 27-28***
 - *To touch a grave would make someone unclean for seven days. Num 19:16*
 - *To keep people from unintentionally touching a grave, the grave would be whitewashed.*
 - *This both warned the people and gave a more pleasing appearance to the grave.*

The Woes

- Jesus publicly denounced the scribes and Pharisees. ***Matt 23:13-36***
 - Woe: They were more concerned with the externals: Whitewashed tombs. ***vs 27-28***
 - *Jesus compared the scribes and Pharisees to these whitewashed graves.*
 - *The worked to appear holy and righteous to the people.*
 - *However, inwardly, they were “full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”*

The Woes

- Jesus publicly denounced the scribes and Pharisees. ***Matt 23:13-36***
 - Woe: They condemned their fathers for persecuting the prophets. They were quickly to do the same. ***vs 29-36***
 - *They claimed to honor the prophets. They would denounce the actions of those who persecuted the prophets.*
 - *However, Jesus said they were witnesses against themselves.*

The Woes

- Jesus publicly denounced the scribes and Pharisees. ***Matt 23:13-36***
 - Woe: They condemned their fathers for persecuting the prophets. They were quickly to do the same. ***vs 29-36***
 - *Jesus foretells the Pharisees rejecting Jesus, His disciples, and His apostles. vs 32-36*

The Woes

- Jesus laments over Jerusalem. ***Matt 23:37-39***
 - Jesus desired to gather the Jewish people to Him.
 - However, they rejected God and the one sent by God.
 - “See! Your house is left to you desolate.”

Conclusion

The takeaway...

- When seeking to serve the Lord, focus on all of what Jesus commanded and taught.
 - *Love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.*
 - *Love our neighbors as ourselves.*

Conclusion

The takeaway...

- Focus on serving the Lord from the heart, cleansing the inward man first.

Conclusion

The takeaway...

- Do not reject Jesus Christ, the son of God.