

THE CONDEMNATION OF RELIGIOUS HYPOCRISY

Matthew 23:1-39

PART TWO – THE WOE-FUL CONDEMNATION - Matthew 23:13-36

Introduction: Standing in the Temple with a listening multitude and His disciples around Him – Jesus publicly denounces the main errors of the Scribes and Pharisees in no uncertain terms. Eight times he uses the solemn expression – “*Woe to you*” Seven times He calls them “*hypocrites*” – Twice He addresses them as “*blind guides*” – twice as “*fools and blind*” – and once as “*serpents*” and “*brood of vipers*”.

As we examine the denunciations that Jesus makes against the scribes and Pharisees – if we know anything about church history this passage is a picture that has been reproduced over and over again in the history of the Church. As **JC Ryle** states, “*There is not a point in the character of the Scribes and Pharisees in which it might not be easily shown, that people calling themselves Christians have often walked in their steps.*”

Remember as we go through this dark section of Mathew’s Gospel that the Scribes and Pharisees are not being charged for being thieves, murderers, or adulterers, but with being hypocrites, and that to the very core. Whatever you and I are in our Christian journey, let us resolve never to wear the mask of hypocrisy. Let us resolve to be “*blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.*” - *Philippians 2:15*. Let us always remember that we represent our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ – at home, at work, at play, and at church.

A. JESUS’ WOE CONCERNING SEEKER _____ – 23:13

B. JESUS’ WOE CONCERNING DAMNABLE _____ – 23:14

C. JESUS’ WOE CONCERNING ZEALOUS _____ – 23:13

D. JESUS' WOE CONCERNING DEVALUING _____ - 23:16-22

E. JESUS' WOE CONCERNING PIOUS _____ - 23:23-24

F. JESUS' WOE CONCERNING HYPOCRITICAL _____ - 23:25-26

G. JESUS' WOE CONCERNING HYPOCRITICAL _____ - 23:27-28

H. JESUS' WOE CONCERNING HYPOCRITICAL _____ - 23:29-36

CONCLUSION: