



## The Seven Woes

### Mt 23

March 17

#### OVERVIEW: [Matthew, pt. II](#)

**CONTEXT:** Jesus has often come into conflict with the religious leaders; He is not the Messiah they had in view. Throughout chs. 14–20 opposition to Jesus mounts. Here we also find Jesus withdrawing and teaching about His Kingdom (one very different from the Kingdom of this world). As Jesus enters Jerusalem and asserts His messianic authority (think of the triumphal entry and the Temple cleansing) tensions rise. In ch. 22 there are a series of clashes with Jesus and then in ch. 23 Jesus issues one of His harshest critiques of the Jewish leaders.

#### FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP (Mt 22:15–22)

- How did Jesus' brilliant response prove His divinity?
- Why should we desire to please God rather than man?
- Why and how are we to submit to the authorities?
  - How is it radical that Jesus and the apostles called Christians to submit to Rome?
- When must Christians not submit to the authorities? Who must we ultimately seek to please and serve?

#### REVIEW: Mt 23

#### QUESTIONS:

1. *A woe is a denunciation. It cries CALAMITY, DISASTER, JUDGEMENT!*
  1. **Do we avoid woes and if so why?**
2. *The Pharisees were a party within the Judaism of Jesus day that advocated for close keeping of the Law as the expression of personal holiness and devotion to God. As such most of the Scribes/lawyers/teachers of the Law, as laid down by Moses to teach the people (e.g. Ezra), were Pharisees.*
3. *INTRODUCTION (vv. 1–12)- Jesus introduced the woes by affirming what they spoke about Moses, but not their traditions, much less their hypocrisy and pride. How were they proud? What is the mark of true leadership (v. 11–12)?*

*In the army chaplaincy I once met a Capt. the honourable Rev. Dr. Canon John Smith. What place, if any, do titles have in the Church? How does these woes flow from their pride?*

4. **In these 7 woes discuss what you may not understand and then ask: 1) what is Jesus denouncing and why; 2) what is He positively affirming and 3) how do this speak today?**
5. **WOE 1 (vv.13–14)**
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
6. **WOE 2 (v.15)**
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
7. **WOE 3 (vv. 16–22)**
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
8. **WOE 4 (vv. 23–24)**
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
9. **WOE 5 (vv. 25–26)**
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
10. **WOE 6 (vv. 27–28)**
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
11. **WOE 7 (vv. 29–36)**
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
12. Given the context of the woes, what do you think Jesus means by His lament in vv. 37–39?

**NEXT TIME:** March 24, Mk 14—the Lord's Supper