

# The Gospel Unashamed

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."

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## "Woe" Unto You

When Jesus says "woe" unto someone, it should cause us to sit up and take notice. He is Lord.

The word "woe" is a warning that grief is coming on that person or a group of persons or nations. It also indicates judgment or terror is coming. It is often translated 'alas'.

Some of the woes that were given are already fulfilled.

For example: To the women of Jerusalem who would see its destruction. **Matthew 24:10**.

**Matthew 24:19**, "And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!"

**Mark 13:17**, "But woe to them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!"

**Luke 21:23**, "But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon **this** people."

To Judas who betrayed Him, it would be better if he had not have been born. **Mark 14:21**, "The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: **but woe** to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never been born."

**Luke 22:22**, "And truly the Son of man goeth, as it was determined:

**but woe** unto that man by whom he is betrayed!"

But some "woes" remain to be relevant to hypocrites today. They are like the hypocrites of yesteryear. Jesus places a woe on those and those like them today.

1. **Matthew 11:21**, "Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes."

People who do not take heed to their much greater advantages than others who did not have such advantages.

2. **Matthew 18:7**, "Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!"

Those who are stumblingblocks to others. **Luke 17:1-2**, "1 Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: **but woe unto him**, through whom they come! 2 It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones."

3. **Matthew 23:13**, "But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in *yourselves*,

neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in."

Those who will not enter the Kingdom of God and try to keep others from seeking the Kingdom of God.

4. **Matthew 23:14**, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation."

Those who profit on religion and con people out of their money will receive greater judgment, such as the TV Evangelists.

5. **Matthew 23:15**, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves."

Those who proselyte around the world but whose converts are more children of Hell than even they are.

6. **Matthew 23:16**, "Woe unto you, ye blind guides, which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor!"

The blind guides who believe and make the symbol greater than the reality.

7. **Matthew 23:23**, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees,

hypocrites! for ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier *matters* of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.”

Those who major in minors but who ignore that which is the basis of the Christian faith.

8. **Matthew 23:25**, “**Woe** unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.”

Those who are interested in seeming to be clean in outward appearances but whose heart is full of wickedness and excess filth.

9. **Matthew 23:27**, “**Woe** unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead *men's* bones, and of all uncleanness.”

Those teachers and groups who like to appear religious but are full of death and filth and white-washed graves. **Luke 11:44**, “**Woe** unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are as graves which appear not, and the men that walk over *them* are not aware of *them*.”

10. **Matthew 23:29**, “**Woe** unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous,”

Those who honor good dead men and care for the righteous men's tomb, but they live contrary to their teachings and examples.

11. **Luke 6:24-25**, “24 **But woe** unto you that are rich! for ye have received your consolation. 25 **Woe** unto you that are full! for ye

shall hunger. **Woe** unto you that laugh now! for ye shall mourn and weep.”

Those who are rich and laugh, for they have their reward and are joyous, but later will mourn.

12. **Luke 6:26**, “**Woe** unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.”

Those who are false prophets and of whom are spoken well of by all men. They shall suffer fate of those they are like.

13. **Luke 11:43**, “**Woe** unto you, Pharisees! for ye love the uppermost seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the markets.”

Those prideful men who exalt themselves to the best seats, special recognition, and live for the praises of men.

14. **Luke 11:46**, “And he said, **Woe** unto you also, ye lawyers! for ye lade men with burdens grievous to be borne, and ye yourselves touch not the burdens with one of your fingers.”

Those who add to God's Word and add difficult burdens but will not help those followers lift their burdens.

15. **Luke 11:52**, “**Woe** unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered.”

Those who take away the key of knowledge so men cannot find their way, thus hindering their way to God.

The woes are on these 15 as well as Judas who betrayed Jesus. There was a woe unto the women whose grief was for Jesus at His death. But Jesus wanted to straighten out their priorities. Likewise, these 15 people need to get their priorities straight, too.

We may be needing to rearrange our grief. It may be as we need to realize Jesus is pronouncing a “woe” against us.