

# STUDY ON THE WOES OF THE PHARISEES (Luke 11:37-52)

Journey Together 2025 Weekly Sermon Series

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| <p><b>Warming Up...</b><br/>Look up on YouTube<br/>“<b>We listen and we don’t judge.</b>”<br/>Maybe watch just one short video together.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>Your turn! Exchange with each other (depending on the size of your group), and share “<b>We listen, and we don’t judge</b>” It can be comical or serious confessions, as you please. The aim is to create bonding and connection, not to shock each other.</p> | <p><b>Aims &amp; Objectives of today’s session:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To challenge ourselves with Jesus’ woes.</li> <li>- To assess internally what that means for us</li> <li>- To ask God to bring to mind areas we need repenting on.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <p><b>Part 1: Initial Reactions</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Read Luke 11:37-52 individually and quietly. Summarise in 8 words what you have just read to help with the initial understanding.</li> <li>2. What are your initial gut reactions and thoughts of what a woe is, based on what you’ve just read?</li> <li>3. Which statement from Jesus strikes you as a more serious one?</li> <li>4. Pastor Bert had ChatGPT come up with “WOE” to be “warped outlook and expectations” would you agree with this?</li> </ol> <p><b>Part 2: Closer look</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Look closer at Luke 11:37-41, and read Mark 7:3-4, why was it important, in their context, to wash? What does Jesus say in response to all of this?</li> <li>2. Now read Luke 6:41-42. What is the recurring theme here? How would you best explain this to someone who is not very self-aware?</li> <li>3. List out the woes in detail from the passage. What do we know about the context and why Jesus would say such things?</li> <li>4. What is a hypocrite?</li> </ol> <p><b>Part 3: Reflecting internally</b><br/>Spend the next section quietly reflecting internally and ask God to reveal to you what items you may be convicted of?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Do I ever have moments where I am a hypocrite? <i>God show me when.</i></li> <li>2. Are there moments where I am being a “gatekeeper” in preventing and withholding others to something good, such as Christ’s salvation and blessing? <i>God show me.</i></li> <li>3. Is there an individual or a few people that I simply tear down and discourage instead of building up and encouraging them? <i>God, bring to mind their faces.</i></li> </ol> <p>Partner up with someone in the group and share and pray about these internal things that the Lord has revealed to you. Pray and support and come back to asking God to keep transforming us, to repent and pray over these convictions.</p> <p><i>To close, the main leader can say a final prayer, to wrap up and remind the group of where our hope and salvation lies: only IN Christ are we saved and redeemed. It is important to conclude with Christ after a time of conviction, repentance and dwell in His forgiveness.</i></p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p><b>Notes on WOES</b><br/><b>FIRST SET OF WOES:</b> (1.1) The first woes (v42) targets their hypocrisy in tithing (through herbs) but yet they neglect justice and the love of God. (1.2) The second woe (v43) draws attention on their love of the best seat: a place of glory and prominence. (1.3) The third woe (v44) compares them to unmarked graves where people walk over them and become unclean unknowingly–this is likened to the Pharisees being deceived for they think they are right but before God they are not.<br/><b>SECOND SET OF WOES:</b> (2.1 ) v46 woes involves the lawyers who deal with the people’s burdens and they interpret the law in the most difficult way, making it hard to bear. Worse still, the lawyers do not touch the burdens themselves, making little to no effort to really help people keep these laws. (2.2) The next woe v47 involves the hypocritical lawyers building monuments for the prophets while continuing to “kill and persecute” them (v48). (2.3) the last woe v52-54 condemns the lawyers for interpretation of scripture, hindering the people to the key of knowledge and entering via God’s plan of salvation.</p> <p><b>Homework / Challenge for this week</b><br/>This week, when you find yourself impatient when driving, or with certain people–challenge yourself to “bless” the other person/driver. Say “bless you” not in a passive aggressive way, but in a way that Jesus would want you to.</p> <p><b>Ending with prayer</b><br/>Our forgiving Father, we are thankful for this time of reflection, would you forgive us for the times we think only of our outsides and not cultivate Christ in our insides. Cleanse us from the inside out. Thank you Lord for your forgiveness and may I keep striving for you daily, may I bless those around me and may I follow you wholeheartedly. May I not be so self-conceited, but focused on You and You alone. Amen.</p> |