

## Luke 11:37-54

### Six Woes

<sup>37</sup> When Jesus had finished speaking, a Pharisee invited him to eat with him; so he went in and reclined at the table. <sup>38</sup> But the Pharisee, noticing that Jesus did not first wash before the meal, was surprised.

<sup>39</sup> Then the Lord said to him, “Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. <sup>40</sup> You foolish people! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also? <sup>41</sup> But give what is inside the dish to the poor, and everything will be clean for you.

<sup>42</sup> “Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.

<sup>43</sup> “Woe to you Pharisees, because you love the most important seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces.

<sup>44</sup> “Woe to you, because you are like unmarked graves, which men walk over without knowing it.”

<sup>45</sup> One of the experts in the law answered him, “Teacher, when you say these things, you insult us also.”

<sup>46</sup> Jesus replied, “And you experts in the law, woe to you, because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them.

<sup>47</sup> “Woe to you, because you build tombs for the prophets, and it was your forefathers who killed them. <sup>48</sup> So you testify that you approve of what your forefathers did; they killed the prophets, and you build their tombs. <sup>49</sup> Because of this, God in his wisdom said, ‘I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and others they will persecute.’ <sup>50</sup> Therefore this generation will be held responsible for the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the beginning of the world, <sup>51</sup> from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, this generation will be held responsible for it all.

<sup>52</sup> “Woe to you experts in the law, because you have taken away the key to knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you have hindered those who were entering.”

<sup>53</sup> When Jesus left there, the Pharisees and the teachers of the law began to oppose him fiercely and to besiege him with questions, <sup>54</sup> waiting to catch him in something he might say.

Luke 11:37-54 — Six Woes

1. How important are appearances in our world today? Do some people care more about how they look than what they are really like inside?
2. Would Dale Carnegie approve of Jesus remarks as a dinner guest?
3. According to Jesus, what did the Pharisees emphasize? And what did they overlook? (11:39-40)
4. It is easy to rationalize not helping others because we have already given to the church. How did Jesus feel about this? (11:42)
5. Why did Jesus say “woe” six times? (11:42-52) What were the six specific reasons that the Pharisees would experience woe?
6. In Verse 11:47, did Jesus say woe to the Pharisees because their forefathers killed the prophets? Or for some other reason? Does God hold us accountable and punish us for the sins of our fathers? (Exodus 20:5, 34:7, Numbers 14:18, Ezekiel 18:30, Acts 5:31, 10:43)
7. Why did Jesus say his listeners would be held responsible for the fates of the prophets? (11:48-51)
8. Which of these “woes” might Jesus warn us about today? Can you think of other woes about which Jesus might warn us?
9. In what ways do we hinder others from coming to God? (11:52)
10. In a Bible study group, do you ask questions and participate in the discussion  
1) to gain knowledge about the scriptures, 2) to subtly show off what you know,  
3) to catch someone else in his or her words, 4) to gain points with the leader,  
5) because the leader calls on you, 6) some other reason?
11. *This week*, ask someone you trust to help you weed out the hypocrisy from your life.
12. *This week*, who can you lovingly encourage to learn from God’s word? How?

Luke 11:37-54 ~ Notes to Leader

6. This is tricky because in some matters, God did say several times in the OT that future generations would be punished for the sins of their fathers. However, because of Jesus' sacrifice for us, we receive forgiveness through believing in him.

Exodus 20:5

You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,

Exodus 34:7

...maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.”

Numbers 14:18

The LORD is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.

Ezekiel 18:30

“Therefore, O house of Israel, I will judge you, each one according to his ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall.

Acts 5:31

God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel.

Acts 10:43

All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Ephesians 1:7

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

7. It is important to understand the reason that Jesus said the Pharisees were still responsible for the deaths of the prophets killed by people several generations earlier. The key words here are, “*you approve...*”

10. You might want to tell your group to recall Proverbs 9:19 — “A closed mouth gathers no foot.”