

7 Woes Against False Leaders Matthew 23:13-33

Using the harshest of language, Jesus rebukes and condemns the scribes and Pharisees

I. **Introduction:** Euphemisms replace bluntness – the “newspeak” of our generation

Jesus’ use of hard and jarring words

II. **Context:** exposing the false leadership of the scribes and Pharisees

The meaning of “*woe*”

III. **Seven woes against false religious leaders (2+2+2+1)**

vss. 13-15 – We find them to be **False Proselytizers**

Irony: Those who should be opening doors to the kingdom are closing them

1 Thessalonians 2:14-16

First Century Judaism (“Test Benediction”)

Irony: Those charged to bring life to others are themselves dead

Missionary zeal is no sure sign of authenticity

vss. 16-24 – Demonstrating **False Priorities**

The blindness to the central message of Scripture while prioritizing peripheral matters

Legalism always magnifies the minutia of the law while neglecting the Gospel

1 Timothy 1:3-7

What do you focus on in Scripture?

vss. 25-28 – Under a **False Pretense**

They look holy outwardly, but inwardly are putridly filled with greed and self-indulgence

They are dead – how about you?

vss. 29-33 – Ultimately due to a **False Pedigree**

They identify themselves as sons of their murderous fathers