

Luke 11:37-54 **Woes to Pharisees and Lawyers**

Question of washing before dinner

³⁷ And as He spoke, a certain Pharisee asked Him to dine with him. So He went in and sat down to eat. ³⁸ And when the Pharisee saw it, he marveled that He had not first washed before dinner.

³⁹ But the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees make the outside of the cup and dish clean, but your inward part is full of greed and wickedness. ⁴⁰ Foolish ones! Did not He who made the outside make the inside also? ⁴¹ But rather give alms of such things as you have; then indeed all things are clean to you.

Hypocritical Tithing

⁴² But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass by justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.

Prestigious positions

⁴³ Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the best seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces.

Like graves

⁴⁴ Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like graves which are not seen, and the men who walk over them are not aware of them."

Lawyers conscience

⁴⁵ Then one of the lawyers answered and said to Him, "Teacher, by saying these things You reproach us also."

Woe to Lawyers

⁴⁶ And He said, "Woe to you also, lawyers! For you load men with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers.

Woe because of blindness to the truth

⁴⁷ Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets, and your fathers killed them. ⁴⁸ In fact, you bear witness that you approve the deeds of your fathers; for they indeed killed them, and you build their tombs. ⁴⁹ Therefore the wisdom of God also said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and persecute,' ⁵⁰ that the blood of all the prophets which was shed from the foundation of the world may be required of this generation, ⁵¹ from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who perished between the altar and the temple. Yes, I say to you, it shall be required of this generation.

Woe for obstruction

⁵² Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in you hindered."

Furious response of Scribes and Pharisees

⁵³ And as He said these things to them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to assail Him vehemently, and to cross-examine Him about many things, ⁵⁴ lying in wait for Him, and seeking to catch Him in something He might say, that they might accuse Him. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Question of washing before dinner

- ✚ At the Pharisee's invitation, Jesus went in and sat down to eat, when the Pharisee saw it, he marveled that He had not first washed before dinner. [Luke 11:37-38, Matthew 23:25]
- ✚ Jesus said, "Now you Pharisees make the outside of the cup and dish clean, but your inward part is full of greed and wickedness. [Luke 11:39, Matthew 23:25]
- ✚ Foolish ones! Did not He who made the outside make the inside also? [Luke 11:40]
 - ✧ But rather give alms of such things as you have; then indeed all things are clean to you. [Luke 11:41, Matthew 23:26]
 - ✧ Our need for cleansing must start from within, the heart and mind.
 - ✧ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. [James 4:8-10]

Hypocritical Tithing

- ✚ But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass by justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. [Luke 11:42, Matthew 23:23]
 - ✧ God desires first of all, Justice and the love of the Lord, Mercy, and Faith.
 - ✧ God said, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt sacrifices." [Hosea 6:6]
 - ✧ He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God? [Micah 6:8]
 - ✧ It is also important to pay the tithe and keep all the commandments, so Jesus said, "These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone."
 - ✧ Because of their nit picking regulations under their "Oral Law" which nullify the commandments of God; [Matthew 15:1-20, Mark 7:6-9] Jesus said, "Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!" [Matthew 23:24]
 - ✧ Their pretentious religiosity focuses on things that are not important, and overlooks the Commandments of God which lead to pure lives acceptable before God.

Prestigious positions

- ✚ Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the best seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces. [Luke 11:43]
 - ✧ Jesus wants His followers to have a servant's heart and not to lord it over others. [Matthew 20:26-28, 23:11]

Like graves

- ✚ Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like graves which are not seen, and the men who walk over them are not aware of them." [Luke 11:44]
 - ✧ From the surface appearance, we do not see the corruption in the hearts of pretentious leaders.
 - ✧ Some times it comes out in the news media before the congregation is aware of any wrong.

Lawyers conscience

- ✚ Then one of the lawyers answered and said to Him, "Teacher, by saying these things You reproach us also." [Luke 11:45]

Woe to Lawyers

- ✚ "Woe to you also, lawyers! For you load men with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers. [Luke 11:46]

- ✧ Leaders are to lead by example, not ruling over the people, He hates the ways of the Nicolaitans. [\[Matthew 20:26-28, 23:11, Revelation 2:6, 15\]](#)

Woe because of blindness to the truth

- ✧ Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets, and your fathers killed them. In fact, you bear witness that you approve the deeds of your fathers; for they indeed killed them, and you build their tombs. [\[Luke 11:47-48\]](#)
- ✧ Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, and say, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.' [\[Matthew 23:29-30\]](#)
- ✧ Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. [\[Matthew 23:31\]](#)
- ✧ Therefore the wisdom of God also said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and persecute,' that the blood of all the prophets which was shed from the foundation of the world may be required of this generation, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who perished between the altar and the temple. Yes, I say to you, it shall be required of this generation. [\[Luke 11:49-51, Matthew 23:34-36\]](#)
 - ✧ The proof of Jesus' condemnation against the Scribes, Pharisees and Lawyers will be validated in their response to the Church which will bring the Gospel of the Kingdom of Heaven and the persecution and martyrdom the Scribes and Pharisees will lead against them.
 - ✧ The Scribes and Pharisees will do to the followers of Jesus, the same as their fathers through history did to the prophets God sent to them in their day.
 - ✧ Jesus' condemnation is valid, their destiny is Hell.
 - ✧ The generation that saw Jesus did indeed experience destruction from the land of Israel, and led to the persecution of the Jews for over 2,000 years. It did come upon "This generation" to whom Jesus said these words.
 - ✧ It is so easy for us to look back on history and believe that we would have been different from those who lived before. But when you look at what goes on in our own generation, it becomes obvious that we would have done the same things as those in history if we had been here in their time.
 - ✧ Mankind has not changed, and we still focus on the things that do not help, and ignore the things that are important. Especially in our education system where we have removed the knowledge of God and His wisdom from the people, and replaced it with humanistic thought and what is called psychology, trusting in mans "wisdom" and rejecting the wisdom of God which is from above.
- ✧ Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers' guilt. [\[Matthew 23:32\]](#)
 - ✧ This they will do as they crucify Jesus and later kill His Apostles and persecute and kill the members of the Church.
 - ✧ Persecution and martyrdom is a thing which will continue to be so until Jesus comes back and sets up His Kingdom of Heaven at the end of the Great Tribulation.
- ✧ Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell? [\[Matthew 23:33\]](#)
 - ✧ Jesus leaves no doubt that the destiny, for those who reject the message of the Kingdom of Heaven and teach others to do the same, is the condemnation of Hell. [\[Matthew 5:17-20, 18:6-9\]](#)
 - ✧ This is the same as the person of city that refuses the message of the Kingdom of Heaven. [\[Matthew 10:5-15, 11:20-24, Mark 6:7-13, Luke 10:1-12, 13-16\]](#)

Woe for obstruction

- ✚ Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in you hindered." [\[Matthew 23:13, Luke 11:52\]](#)
- ✧ Woe to hypocritical, violent, pretentious religious leaders. [\[Matthew 23:13\]](#)
 - ✧ They will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven, and they obstruct the way of those who desire to do so. [\[Matthew 23:13, Luke 11:52\]](#)
 - ✧ By their traditions they have made the Commandments of God ineffective. [\[Matthew 15:1-20, Mark 7:6-9\]](#)

Furious response of Scribes and Pharisees

- ✚ And as He said these things to them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to assail Him vehemently, and to cross-examine Him about many things, lying in wait for Him, and seeking to catch Him in something He might say, that they might accuse Him. [\[Luke 11:53-54\]](#)
- ✧ It is so natural for mankind to become so furious when we perceive disapproval that we tend to want to destroy the one we sense to be the cause of the attack on our character, rather than consider the potential truth in the words of the Master and repent of our ways.
- ✧ Today, the response to the truth would gender the same response from many who claim the name of Christian.
- ✧ We need to consider our own reaction to the things Jesus has said and see if they might apply to us today.
- ✧ If they would so apply, we need to seek to make a change in our feelings and learn from it, which will help us grow in godliness.

May the Lord help us to examine ourselves so we will be found acceptable at the coming of the Lord for His Saints. [\[2 Corinthians 13:5, Galatians 6:4\]](#)