

“WOE TO YOU PHARISEES!

Luke 11:37–54

Key Verse: 11:44

1. Review how the Pharisees had been responding to Jesus' ministry; what was wrong with them (5:21,30,33; 6:2,7; 7:30,39)? Note also the upcoming warnings about them; why do disciples of Jesus need such warnings (12:1; 16:14; 18:9–14)?
2. What is the setting, and what might this man's motive have been (11:37)? How does he react to Jesus, and why (38)? What fundamental problem in religious life do Jesus' words expose (39)? How else does he rebuke the Pharisees, and why (40)? What direction does he give, and what does this mean to us (41)?
3. Review the previous “woes” Jesus pronounced (6:24–26; 10:13) and the “woes” he speaks now (42,43,44,46,47,52); what does the word “woe” mean, and why would Jesus use it? What is his first “woe,” and how can these words help us (42)?
4. What is Jesus' second “woe,” and how should disciples be different (43; 14:7–11; 20:46; cf. Ro12:16)? What is his final “woe” to the Pharisees, and what does this mean to us (44; cf. 1Co15:33)? In light of these first three woes, how does Jesus want his disciples to live?
5. How does one of the dinner guests respond, what “woe” does Jesus pronounce, and what does this mean (45–46)? What is his next “woe,” what else does he say about this, and why is this tendency so serious (47–51)? What can we learn from his final “woe” to the lawyers (52)? What resulted (53–54)?