

Back To Cool Series #4

Angry Words #2

Matthew 23:13-33 ¹³"**Woe** to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven in men's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to. ¹⁵"**Woe** to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as you are. ¹⁶"**Woe** to you, blind guides! You say, 'If anyone swears by the temple, it means nothing; but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.' ¹⁷You blind fools! Which is greater: the gold, or the temple that makes the gold sacred? ¹⁸You also say, 'If anyone swears by the altar, it means nothing; but if anyone swears by the gift on it, he is bound by his oath.' ¹⁹You blind men! Which is greater: the gift, or the altar that makes the gift sacred? ²⁰Therefore, he who swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. ²¹And he who swears by the temple swears by it and by the one who dwells in it. ²²And he who swears by heaven swears by God's throne and by the one who sits on it. ²³"**Woe** to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices--mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law--justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. ²⁴You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel. ²⁵"**Woe** to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. ²⁶Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean. ²⁷"**Woe** to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. ²⁸In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness. ²⁹"**Woe** to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You build tombs for the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous. ³⁰And you say, 'If we had lived in the days of our forefathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.' ³¹So you testify against yourselves that you are the descendants of those who murdered the prophets. ³²Fill up, then, the measure of the sin of your forefathers! ³³"You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell? (NIV 84)

I. There are seven "Woe's" in this passage that deal with why Jesus is angry at the spiritual leaders of his day.

A. They **block** the way for others to enter the kingdom of heaven. V. 13

- B. They are zealous for mission, but the fruit reveals the truth of their **intent**. V. 15
 - C. They have worldly **values**. V. 16-22 This doesn't encourage swearing, it just encourages godly values in one's ministry.
 - D. They have strict religious observance, but their **character** is ignored. V. 23-24
 - E. Their outside appearance is flawless, but their **inner self** is horrible. V. 25-26
 - F. They have the reputation of righteousness, but their **actions** do not match their reputation. V. 27-28
 - G. They hide their **true** nature with charitable actions. V. 29-33
- II. Here some difficult changes that need to be made in the lives of religious hypocrites.
- A. Their **traditions** must not be used to keep people from coming to God. Some traditions must be ended if they cause a barrier from people coming to Christ.
 - B. If one's missionary involvement does not produce godly **disciples** of Jesus Christ it must be re-evaluated.
 - C. A leader must have godly **motivation** as a foundation for their ministry. Do not follow someone who has earthly values as their foundation for what they do.
 - D. One's character must be consistent with his/her religious **observances**.
 - E. A godly leader cannot be determined by his/her **looks**.
 - F. A godly leader should be evaluated by their actions not their perceived **reputation**.
 - G. Outward good deeds cannot erase consistent character **flaws**.