

### The Tragedy of the Lawyers

At a dinner gathering, Jesus has just declared three 'woes' on the Pharisees. He has lamented the facts that their shallow understanding of God and his law resulted in (1) incomplete obedience, (2) personal exaltation, and (3) invisible corruption. One of the lawyers who was there objects. Jesus responds by declaring three more 'woes'.

The Tragedy of the Lawyers is marked by:

1. Hypocritical Insensitivity
  - a. They encumber God's people *Acts 15:10*
  - b. They do not help others
  - c. They do not themselves obey *Matt. 23:1-4*
2. Hypocritical Complicity
  - a. They honor the old prophets
  - b. But they despise the prophets of their day
3. Hypocritical Ministry
  - a. They do not believe themselves
  - b. They ignore that which must be believed in their teaching

Application:

1. Do we live up to the standards we require of others? Is our attitude towards those who struggle one of sympathy?
2. Do we honor the Word of God in our own day?
3. Have we used the "key of knowledge" and is it central to our message?