

# Matthew 23

23:1-12 – Jesus condemns the deeds of the religious leaders.

Their deeds betray their darkened hearts.

Once again, Matthew focuses on the need to be a servant.

23:13-33 – The 8 “woes”: warnings to the scribes and Pharisees about suffering, misfortune, and ruinous trouble.

(Note: only 7 “woes” in some modern translations, omitting v. 14)

- #1: “Shutting off” people from the kingdom of God. (v. 13)
- #2: Taking advantage of widows and the weak. (v. 14)
- #3: Proselytizing to make others into yourself. (v. 15)
- #4: Making an idol out of swearing an oath. (vv. 16-22)
- #5: Priding yourself on tithing rather than caring. (vv. 23-24)
- #6: Missing the point on what it means to be clean. (vv. 25-26)
- #7: Assuming righteousness is in outward appearance. (vv. 27-28)
- #8: Assuming they would not be like their predecessors. (vv. 29-33)

23:34-36 – The tragic irony: they are going to do the same thing to Jesus's followers as their forefathers did to the prophets.

23:37-39 – There are tragic consequences for those who have all the evidence but, in their unbelief, are unwilling.