

# **“Christ’s Woes on False Religion”**

## **Luke 11:33-54**

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### **I. Introduction**

- A. In our text, Jesus does what would not be acceptable today in our culture
  - 1. Also note how Jesus dealt with people
  - 2. So, Jesus’ woes on the hypocrites
  - 3. Set the context in Luke’s gospel
  - 4. Today, there are three sections

### **II. The Challenge to Receive God’s True Light (Luke 11:33-36)**

- A. Jesus’ light (v. 33)
  - 1. The truth of the Gospel
- B. Our light (v. 34)
- C. “Take heed,” How?
  - 1. Pray and confess your sins and set your eyes on Christ
  - 2. Contemplation
    - a) Time alone (Psalm 51)
  - 3. Read the Word of God with expectancy
    - a) Illustration- During the French Revolution

### **III. The Confrontation with the Pharisees (Luke 11:37-44)**

- A. Jesus exposed their folly (vv. 37-41)
  - 1. There was a religion of external rights
  - 2. True Christianity is not rights or rituals
  - 3. True Christianity is Christ
  - 4. It’s Christ in your heart
  - 5. Illustration- David (Psalm 51:6, 10)
- B. Jesus expresses three woes (vv. 42-44)
  - 1. Woe over their priorities (v. 42)
    - a) “He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8 NIV).
  - 2. The woe over their pride (v. 43)
    - a) They put reputation above character
    - b) Reputation is what people think we are; character is what God knows we are
    - c) The most important part of you is the part that only God can see
    - d) We are to be humble servants to others
      - 1) Illustration- Jesus (Philippians 2)
  - 3. The woe over their polluting others (v. 44)
    - a) “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves” (Matthew 23:15).

4. They majored in minor issues while ignoring what God desires most
5. They used their leadership for personal gain rather than service to God's people
6. They became agents of defilement rather than mediators of redemption

#### **IV. The Condemnation of the Lawyers (Luke 11:45-54)**

- A. Three main woes. Remember, our Lord's woes were spoken in anguish, not in anger
  1. The woe for legalism (v. 46)
    - a) Illustration- Laws about the Sabbath day
    - b) Illustration- Jesus' invitation to "come unto me all ye..."
    - c) Beware of the Legalist
  2. The woe for memorializing (vv. 47-51)
  3. The woe for depriving God's people of God's Word (v. 52)
    - a) For pastors or spiritual leaders
      1. "Study to show" (2 Timothy 2:15)
      2. "Preach the Word" (2 Timothy 4:1-2)
      3. Paul- "For I am not ashamed..." (Acts 20:27)
      4. Jesus is the key to understanding Scripture
      5. Jesus is the main theme of Scripture
      6. Jesus- "I am the way..." (John 14:6)
      7. "Jesus weeps over Jerusalem" (Matthew 23)

#### **V. Conclusion**

- A. Jesus wept over Jerusalem (Matthew 23)