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***Confrontations,  
Woes, and Weeping***

**Matthew 23:13-39**

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the  
**Gospel**  
according to  
**Matthew**







# **The Gentle Saviour becomes the Righteous Judge**

## **Seven Woes**

*Hypocritic x6, blind guides x5,  
fools, snakes, and brood of vipers x1*

## **One Weeping**

*The Merciful Cry of the Righteous King*



## **Seven Woes (V13-36)**

**Missed the heart of the gospel of grace**

- **First two woes**

Hypocrites shutting door of heaven, misguided converts

- **Third and fourth woes**

Blind guides living with irreverence, majoring on minor

- **Fifth and sixth woes**

Concern for external lacking inner righteousness

- **Seven woes**

Rejected Christ the greatest prophet and Saviour



## **First Woe: Shutting the Door of Heaven**

***<sup>13</sup> 'Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.***

**Disqualified themselves and others**

**From entering the kingdom**

***Religion not Relationship, Performance not Grace***





## **Second Woe: Misdirected Zeal**

***<sup>15</sup> 'Woe to you...you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are.***

### **Leading to Misguided Converts**

***Busy for God yet far away from Him  
Making converts to themselves, not God***



### **Third Woe: Blind Guides**

***<sup>16</sup> ‘Woe to you, blind guides! You say, “If anyone swears by the temple, it means nothing; but anyone who swears by the gold of the temple is bound by that oath.”’***

***Living with Irreverence***

**Making False and Deceptive Oaths**

***Misunderstood sacredness of making oaths***





## **Gold and Gift vs. Temple and Altar**

***<sup>17</sup> You blind fools! Which is greater: the gold, or the temple that makes the gold sacred? <sup>18</sup> You also say, “If anyone swears by the altar, it means nothing; but anyone who swears by the gift on the altar is bound by that oath.”***

**Putting material things above God**

***Temple is His Presence, Altar is His Throne***



## **Fourth Woe: Majoring on the Minor**

***<sup>23</sup> ‘Woe to you...hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices – mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law – justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practised the latter, without neglecting the former.***

**Meticulous in tithing herbs but  
neglecting heart of a true religion**



# **Wrong Sense of Proportion**

*<sup>24</sup> You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.*

**Unclean tiny gnat  
vs. Camel-sized sin**

## **Wrong focus**

*Practicing trivialities and  
ignoring weighty matters*





## **Fifth Woe**

### **Clean Outside, Dirty Inside**

***<sup>25</sup> 'Woe to you...hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. <sup>26</sup> Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside...and then the outside also will be clean.***

**Concern for External but  
Lacking Inner Righteousness  
*Polished Exterior Not Pure Heart***





## **Sixth Woe**

### **Alive Outside but Dead Inside**

***27 'Woe to you...hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean...outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.***

## **Spiritually Dead Inside**

**Harbouring Sin: *Neglecting the Heart***



## **Seven Woe: Honouring Dead Prophet but Rejecting the Greatest Prophet**

***<sup>29</sup> ‘Woe to you...hypocrites! You build tombs for the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous. <sup>30</sup> And you say, “If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.” <sup>31</sup> So you testify against yourselves that you are the descendants of those who murdered the prophets.***

**Built monumental tombs for OT prophets**





**The truth is they martyred  
all the OT prophets**

***<sup>35</sup> And so upon you will come all the righteous blood that has been shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berekiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.***

**From Abel the First  
to Zechariah the Last OT Martyrs**



## **They rejected God's Messengers in the present**

*<sup>33</sup> 'You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell? <sup>34</sup> Therefore I am sending you prophets and sages and teachers. Some of them you will kill and crucify; others you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town.*

**They will crucify Christ the Messiah,  
the greatest prophets sent to be their Savior**

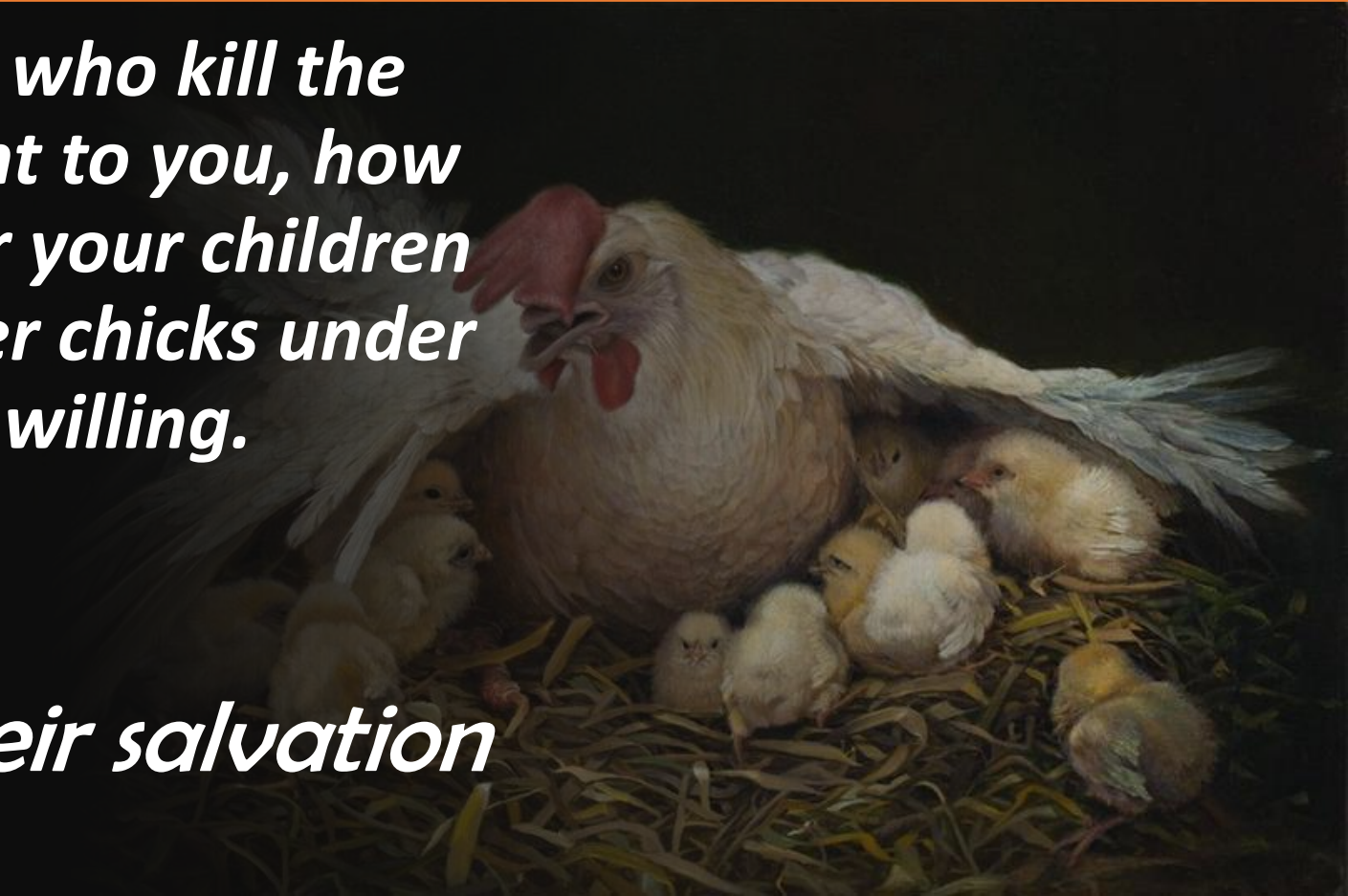


# Jesus wept over Jerusalem

***<sup>37</sup> 'Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.***

**God longs to save**

*Jesus' compassion for their salvation*





**A.D. 70**



**Psalm 118:26**

**Judgment is coming**  
**but there is hope**

*<sup>38</sup> Look, your house is left to you desolate. <sup>39</sup> For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."*

**The temple once filled with glory would be gone**

**Those who believe in him and  
are overcomers with him will be blessed**



# **Are we Hypocritic False Teachers?**

*Missing the joyful kingdom life and hindering others to enter into it?*

## **Misdirected Zeal with Misguided Converts**

*Having misdirected passion for mission making converts for ourselves, our church, and denomination?*



## **Blind Irreverence Guides**

*Making false deceptive oaths putting self and material things above God*

## **Living with wrong focus**

**Practicing trivialities and ignoring weighty matters**

*Do we put more emphasis on practicing evangelism, justice, mercy, and faithfulness than minor details such as decoration and collecting tithes for the church?*





# **Clean Outside, Dirty Inside**

*Concern for external but lacking inner righteousness? Have we been transformed by the gospel?*

## **Alive Outside, Spiritually Dead Inside**

*Walking as a living lie, focusing on outward appearance and ritualism rather than inward righteousness and a living relationship with Christ bearing fruit of the Spirit?*



# **Listen to Christ's Lament!**

**Believe in him, live the eternal life and be blessed on his return**

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## **He is Our Living Hope**

- *Receive Christ's Mercy*
- *Guard against Religious Pride and Hypocrisy.*
- *Pursue Inner Transformation.*
- *Reflect Christ's Heart for the Lost.*





***Come Follow Jesus  
Love and Serve Him!***

***Live Authentic Christian Life and Be Blessed!***

