

# Message Notes

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## **Woes & Weeping**

Matthew 23:13-39

Gospel of Matthew, part 77

July 16, 2006

# Message Outline

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## **Woes & Weeping**

Matthew 23:13-39

Gospel of Matthew, part 77

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## **Woes toward the Leaders of Israel**

- A. For their Exclusion of the People
  - Woe #1: Shut the kingdom (23:13)
  - Woe #2: Make converts worse than themselves (23:15)
- B. For their Manipulation of Truth
  - Woe #3: Swearing games (23:16-22)
- C. For their Inversion of God's Priorities
  - Woe #4: Strain the gnat, swallow the camel (23:23-24)
  - Woe #5: Clean the outside, but not the inside (23:25-26)
  - Woe #6: Whitewashed tombs full of bones (23:27-28)
- D. For the Deception of their Hearts
  - Woe #7: Slithery monument builders (23:29-33)

### **A Pronouncement of Personal Judgment (23:33-36)**

## **Weeping over the Nation of Israel**

- A. A Description (23:37a)
- B. A Desire (23:37b)
- C. A Desolation
  - Departure of God's Presence (23:38-39)
  - Destruction of God's Temple (24:1-2)
  - Diversion of God's work to and through the Gentiles (24:14)

### **A Pronouncement of National Corporate Judgment**

## **Wondering about Application . . .**

## **Growth Group Understanding Questions**

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### **Woes & Weeping**

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1. Read Matthew 23:13-39 again. What's happening here? When is it happening? Why is it happening? Who's talking? About whom?
2. Count all the names that Jesus calls the Scribes and Pharisees and the numbers of times each is used. What do we make of Jesus name-calling? Why do you think Jesus is hard on these guys?
3. In the first "woe" in 23:13, how exactly do the Scribes and Pharisees "shut off the kingdom" from people? (Clue: How do we enter the kingdom?)
4. Look at woes 4, 5, 6. How do they go together and what do they show about the Scribes and Pharisees?
5. How is the harshness of our Lord balanced in 23:37-39? What three things does "your house is being left to you desolate" mean?

## **Growth Group Application Questions**

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### **Woes & Weeping**

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1. What was most challenging or new in the text/message this week?
2. This text is about bad spiritual leaders. How do we develop good spiritual leaders today? Why is that so important?
3. This text reminds us that while God sees and holds us responsible individually, He also sees and holds us accountable corporately – as families, churches, cities and nations. Can you think of other places in Scripture where this truth is illustrated? What are the implications of this truth for our lives?
4. Jesus speaks much here and other places of judgment. Why is this so hard for us to swallow? Why is talking about judgment not opposed to love, but a part of love?

### **What's Up with Growth Groups?**

Growth Groups are one of the best ways to jump into life at Grace! We believe that gathering in small groups of 6-12 people to study the Bible, pray for each other and care for each other is the best way to make a large and growing church feel like a small church. While Growth Groups are on hiatus for the summer, they will resume again the week of October 1st. For more information see the Growth Groups brochure or contact Pastor Steve.