



The Gospel of Matthew

"Woe to You...Hypocrites"
Matthew 23:13-28



"Woe to You...Hypocrites"

"Sincere" hypocrisy?

- not the hypocrisy of deliberate, self-conscious deceit but rather of self-deceit and blindness
- a distorted perspective that focuses on the externals while missing the essence of what God desires



"Woe to You...Hypocrites"

Matthew 23:13-36



"Woe to You...Hypocrites"

1. External religion keeps people out of heaven

- external law-keeping promotes self-righteousness and produces spiritual blindness
- a focus on external religion keeps people from seeing their need for Jesus and trusting in Him alone



"Woe to You...Hypocrites"

2. Hypocrisy is seen in majoring on the minors

➤ *two illustrations:*

- carefully defining which oaths were binding and which were not
- tithing garden herbs while neglecting the heart of the Law



"Woe to You...Hypocrites"

2. Hypocrisy is seen in majoring on the minors

➤ *principles*

- focusing on minor issues of obedience or doctrine obscures what is essential
- mere external obedience can blind us to issues of the heart



“Woe to You...Hypocrites”

3. The necessity and priority of inward change

➤ *two metaphors*

- the outside and inside of a cup or dish
- the outside and inside of a whitewashed tomb



“Woe to You...Hypocrites”

3. The necessity and priority of inward change

➤ *principles*

- outward righteousness without inward purity is hypocrisy and lawlessness
- inward cleansing and transformation leads to outward obedience