


The Gospel of Matthew

“Woe to You...Hypocrites” (pt 2)
Matthew 23:29-39



“Woe to You...Hypocrites”

Characteristics of Hypocrisy


- do not practice what they preach
- perform acts of piety to be noticed by men
- focus on the externals and miss the essence
- outward appearance without an inward purity
- *self-righteous blindness to their true condition*

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!
For you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous,
and say, ‘If we had been living in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partners with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’
Consequently you bear witness against yourselves, that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up then the measure of your fathers.
You serpents, you brood of vipers, how shall you escape the sentence of hell?”

Therefore, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city,
that upon you may fall all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.
Truly I say to you, all these things shall come upon this generation.”

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling.
Behold your house is being left to you desolate!
For I say to you, from now on you shall not see Me until you say, ‘BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!’”

Matthew 23:29-39



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Redemptive-historical significance

- a pronouncement of God's climactic judgment on Israel and its leaders for their rejection of God, culminating in the rejection of Messiah
- Israel as a nation is being cut off by God and left desolate



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1. The deceit of self-righteousness

- content with outward displays of adoration with no heart of real obedience
- comparing ourselves favorably to others while blind to our own sin



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2. The certainty of God's judgment

- all those who reject Jesus as Savior and Lord will not escape the sentence of hell
- the greater the opportunity spurned, the greater the severity of God's judgment

For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice of sin,

but a certain terrifying expectation of judgment, and the fury of fire which will consume the adversaries.

Anyone who set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?

(Hebrews 10:26-29)



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3. The tender compassion of Jesus

- His desire, even for His enemies, is for their salvation and protection from harm
- He takes no delight in the prospect of their judgment but it moves Him to sorrow