



MATTHEW

The Prophecy Fulfilled

Woe unto you....



- Woe – denotes wrath and pity...
- Scribes, Pharisees, hypocrites! (Mt 6:2,3,16; 7:5)
 - Strongest words of condemnation... religious leaders!
 - Used 6x (not vs 16)
 - Jesus rejects and condemns the “saying and not doing”
 - 7 of them are established in oldest texts (vs 14 not)

Woe unto you....



1. Shut up the Kingdom and don't enter!
 - Took away the key of knowledge... (Lk 11:52)
 - Preferred tradition over scripture
- Widows (vs 14) see Mk 12:40; Lk 20:47 – valid there
 - Pretext of long prayers, but treating the poorest badly
 - Defrauded widows on legal basis...

Woe unto you...



2. Searching for one proselyte

– You make him 2x the son of Gehenna!

1. Proselytes of righteousness, or those who wholly and fully embraced the Jewish religion, were baptized, circumcised, and who conformed to all the rites of the Mosaic institutions.

2. Proselytes of the gate, or those who approved of the Jewish religion, renounced the pagan superstitions, and conformed to some of the rites of the Jews, but were not circumcised or baptized. “7 precepts of Noah”

Woe unto you....



3. Swearing by the Temple/offering (16-22)

- Blind guides.. Not going to see much! Destination?
- Stressed the gold of the offering over Temple.
- Swearing by the altar was nothing, but the gold???
- God hears all vows! He is IN the Temple...
 - Vows to Heaven and the Throne of God!

Woe unto you...



4. Tithe on seeds and forgot the larger law! (23-24)
 - Picking and choosing the laws to stress and follow...
 - Whatever made them look good... externals...
- Jesus emphasized 3 INTERNALS...
 - Justice, Mercy, Faithfulness
 - Avoid lesser sins - commit greater ones? (gnats/camels)

Woe unto you...



5. Inside and Outside

- Looked only to the “externals”, measurable things...
- What about the inside, the heart???
- Note Jesus’ charge against them...
 - Robbery - extortion
 - Self-indulgence - no self-restraint, excess, many sins...
 - Vs. 26- change to singular - appeal to change!

Woe unto you...



6. Tombs and cemeteries ~

- White wash used to mark tombs before holy days, Num. 19:16 ~ even in a field if you find one, 7 days unclean!
- Roadside graves...



Woe unto you...



6. Tombs and cemeteries – (vs 27,28)

- White wash used to mark tombs before holy days, Num. 19:16 – even in a field if you find one, 7 days unclean!
- Roadside graves...
- Peril of coming upon one... Jesus said the same of them!!!
- Inward hypocrisy and lawlessness...
- Do we hear these warnings???

Woe unto you....



7. Murder of the prophets! Vs. 29-33

- Jews honored relics and tombs of prophets...
- Blamed forefathers for sins that they committed!
- Denied the same weaknesses...
- Yet they rejected the greatest prophet of all...
- see John 8:40 ff

Woe unto us?



- These warnings are for all who follow Jesus
 - 32,33 leave us a stern warning
 - The judgement of *Gehenna*
- 34-36 – “I send you prophets” God’s doing!
 - Many prophets killed and rejected in Jerusalem
 - This generation – 70 AD