

Matthew 23:13-39; Mark 12:41-44 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. Using Matt 23:23-24 what practice called for “woe” here (v23)? What should they have focused on (v23)? To what did Jesus compare this (v24)?	
5. Read Matt 23:25-26. How were these leaders hypocritical (v25) and how does Jesus describe their “insides”? What should they have done (v26) and what would result (v26)? Apply.	
6. Looking at Matt 23:27-28 what else were the leaders like on the inside (v28) and how does Jesus picture this (v27)?	
7. From Matt 23:29-33 upon what final hypocritical practice does Jesus pronounce woe (v29-30)? What would this lead to for them (v31, 32-33)?	
8. Using Matt 23:34-36 what did Jesus promise to do (v34) and why (v34-35)? What would happen to them (v36)?	
9. In Matt 23:37-39 how does Jesus express His desire regarding Israel (v37) and what two things does He prophesy (v38, 39)? What does each of these refer to?	
10. Based on Mark 12:41-44 what contrasting behaviors did Jesus observe (v41, 42) and what does He say about it (v43-44)? How can we apply this?	
11. Review the study this week. How does hypocrisy block others’ entrance to heaven, how does it hurt the hypocrite, and what kind of heart should we have instead? Where do you need to change?	

Scripture to Remember

“This poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury; for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned.”

Mark 12:43-44 (NASV)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

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Life Group Questions—Warrior Princess (2 Cor 10:3-7; Eph 6:10-17)

(Using questions from Sunday’s message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. Share with the group about the strongest (character-wise) woman you have ever known. What causes you to think of her that way—give illustrations?
2. What are some of the stereotypes that women have to deal with growing up? As women which end of the spectrum is most difficult for you to deal with—the weak/soft woman or the masculine/tough woman?
3. Discuss some of the warrior-like things that mothers are called to do. How can husbands support this? How can they tear it down?
4. Read Eph 6:10-17. How can women specifically apply each piece of armor to their lives?
5. How does a woman’s femininity fit into the warrior mindset?
6. What type of a man does a warrior-princess need? Are men fulfilling this today in general? What must men do to move that direction again?
7. Share about anything else meaningful from the message if you have time.



THE LIFE OF JESUS

Studies in the Gospels

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The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

Equal Opportunity Offender Matthew 23:13-39; Mark 12:41-44

There are some comedians who make their living by insulting everyone, such as Don Rickles did in the 60s and 70s. To get a laugh he was an “equal opportunity offender”. Similarly, in this week’s study Jesus took multiple opportunities to offend the Jewish religious leaders, labeling them as hypocrites. He declared “woe” upon them several times, giving the reasons that they deserved the judgment that was coming. The first two woes were pronounced because of their pattern of preventing entrance into heaven by their followers. The first of these groups were the Jewish people in general. Not only did the leaders not enter heaven, but they also, by their teachings, shut up its entrance to the people. The next group was proselytes, those who were not natural

born Jews. The Jewish leaders traveled everywhere to recruit them, but then made them so religious that they became twice as much sons of hell as the Jews. In the next section Jesus provided evidence of their hypocrisy as the basis for woe. This showed in their lack of integrity; they devised ways to take oaths that meant nothing because of their wording, demonstrating their deceit. They also revealed hypocrisy by substituting the tithe of the smallest produce in place of justice, mercy and faithfulness in their dealings with one another. Tithing was good, but was not to be done in lieu of the other. They also sought to appear righteous, although internally they were filled with greed, self-indulgence, uncleanness and lawlessness. Finally, woe would come on



Jesus’ one solitary life changed the course of mankind for eternity.

them because they, too, had joined with their forefathers in murdering God’s spokesmen, even though they built monuments to them. This led Jesus to present an exposed heart, first His own, and then that of a widow. He sadly said that He would have gathered them under His wings, but they refused. So, their nation would become desolate until the day they acknowledged Him as King. In the last story a widow gave all she had, showing her complete devotion to the Lord. These provided the contrast to the Jews whom Jesus had deservedly offended.

Study Questions for Matthew 23:13-39; Mark 12:41-44

(For answers go to http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf/html/study_questions)

<p>1. Read Matt 23:13-14. What did Jesus declare and what do you think this meant (v13) Who was this upon (v13)? What were the first two ways that they showed their hypocrisy and what should they have done (v13, 14)?</p>	
<p>2. In Matt 23:15 what was their third practice that deserved “woe”? What was so bad about this and how do we do this today?</p>	
<p>3. From Matt 23:16-22 what deserves the fourth woe (v16, 17)? What were they doing wrong (v16, 18)? What made their practice foolish and wrong (v17, 19, 20-22)? What was the right way?</p>	

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