

The Danger of Misguided Devotion
The 7 Woes Pt. 2
Pastor Eric Nelson

Community Group Questions:

1. *Every culture has that one sound or phrase that communicates a whole range of emotions (like “Ugh,” “Oi Vey,” “Ufda” or “Woe”.* What’s a funny, random, or memorable expression you use when you’re frustrated, surprised, or overwhelmed?
2. How does thinking of “woe” as a grief-filled warning change the way you hear Jesus’ words?
3. Read Mathew 23:15. In your own words, how would you define hypocrisy? Why is it easier to focus on looking good on the *outside* than dealing with what’s on the *inside*?
4. Jesus warned about being sincerely devoted but still wrong. Why do you think “misguided devotion” can be more dangerous than no devotion at all?
5. Look at the math of false religion above. Which of those is the biggest temptation for you personally? Which one do you think is most dangerous in our culture?
6. The Gospel simplifies everything down to: Jesus alone, Grace alone, Faith alone, Bible alone, and God’s glory alone. Which of those “alones” do you most need to hold onto right now?
7. If someone followed you around for a week, what would they learn about the kind of Jesus you’re inviting people to follow?

Every woe is a compassionate **ALARM**.

Matthew 23:15 *“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are.”*

Ouai: *A critique that’s public wrapped in grief that’s personal.*

Isaiah 5:8-23 *Woe to you who add house to house and join field to field till no space is left and you live alone in the land... 11 Woe to those who rise early in the morning to run after their drinks, who stay up late at night till they are inflamed with wine...18 Woe to those who draw sin along with cords of deceit, and wickedness as with cart ropes... 20 Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. 21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight. 22 Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine and champions at mixing drinks, 23 who acquit the guilty for a bribe, but deny justice to the innocent.*

Matthew 11:20-21 *Then Jesus began to denounce the towns in which most of his miracles had been performed, because they did not repent. 21 “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the*

miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

1 Corinthians 9:16 *For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!*

Revelation 18:10 *Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry: “Woe! Woe to you, great city, you mighty city of Babylon! In one hour your doom has come!”*

HYPOCRISY is masking inner corruption with outward performance.

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Don't mistake religious activity for spiritual **VITALITY**.

John 8:42-44 *Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. 43 Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. 44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires.*

The distance your devotion takes you isn't a replacement for the **DOCTRINE** you take with you.

Big Idea: Woe to those who lead people into **FALSE** religion.

False Religion always...

ADDS to the Bible.

SUBTRACTS from Jesus.

DIVIDES the outside from the inside.

MULTIPLIES works.

EQUALS human glory

CHRISTIANITY is Bible alone. Jesus alone. Faith alone. Grace alone. God's glory alone.

BOTTOM LINE: **HAPPY** are those who make disciples who are children of God.

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