

☞ We are in the middle of an exchange between Jesus and the blind, not the physically blind but the willfully blind. Up until this point, Jesus has tolerated their willful blindness and avoided them; only engaging them when they had tried to trap Him. Now and from here on, Jesus is going to make Himself very clear about His feelings towards them. Understand, these are not just Jesus' opinions, I have an opinion; you have an opinion, but Jesus has the facts. We have to keep this in mind at all times as we study Christ: He is God, not partly God, not a reduced version of God or a mini-God. When Jesus speaks, we are hearing the facts of God's mind being expressed, not an opinion because an opinion implies that others of similar validity exist. Keep that in mind as Jesus gives us the facts about these false teachers in Luke 11:37-54. These guys are great illustration of not only false Judaism, but they also illustrate the character of false religion in general and, most importantly, God's position on all of it.

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**1. Jesus says "Woe" to them all.**

- ✓ "Woe" is the same as "curse you." God's word on false religion: anything other than what the Scriptures teach, and anyone who teaches Jesus but not the Jesus of the Scriptures, they are cursed!

**2. Jesus calls them all hypocrites, Matthew 23:13.**

- ✓ Hypocrites is what the Greeks called all their actors. It is a perfect word for false religion, they are acting a role. They play the role of those who know God, but they do not. They play the role of those who know and teach the truth, but they do not. They play the role of those who are righteous, but they are not. They play the role of those going to heaven, but they are not going. They are actors, but this isn't a screen play, this is eternal life and eternal death.

**3. They wear the perfect disguise to control people: the cloak of religion.**

- ✓ Satan rules the world: 1<sup>st</sup> John 5:19-20. We know God because we know Jesus, but they are ruled by Satan. Satan does not rule the world through immorality or debauchery, he rules through religion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 11:14. Terrorism is a terrible thing and a scourge on our planet, but these religions and their leaders are the worst terrorist of all. Terrorist may blow up your body, but these guys will blow up your soul. Being under their influence is the ultimate disaster, their leaders pick your pockets, deceive your mind, and then condemn your soul all in the name of morality and religion. The Pharisees and scribes were the classic examples of this: perfectly disguised, clean, and attractive on the outside and full of wickedness and filth on the inside. Luke 11:39.

**4. They are spiritual obstructionist, Luke 11:52.**

- ✓ They don't go in, and they prevent others; just like their father, John 8:44. There aren't several good ways; there isn't good and bad in them all only bad in disguise. They may have a good set of rules and even improve your outlook down here temporarily, but the end is death. If you miss heaven by an inch or a mile, it makes no difference. You don't get in through false religion, you only get in through Christ.

**5. They have no power, offer no help, and have no truth, Luke 11:46.**

- ✓ They add rules with no ability to keep them, and they won't help you keep them either. They are soul terrorists, plunderers of hearts and souls. Come to Jesus and it will be the exact opposite, Matthew 11:28-30.

**Come to Jesus and you'll find power, help and rest.**

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