

# Community Group Question Guide

## Matthew 23:13-22 – Seven Warnings: Pt. 1

13 *“But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in. (note: V14 is missing due to its absence from the best manuscripts)*

15 *Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.*

16 *“Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.’*

17 *You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred?*

18 *And you say, ‘If anyone swears by the altar, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is bound by his oath.’*

19 *You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred?*

20 *So whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it.*

21 *And whoever swears by the temple swears by it and by him who dwells in it.*

22 *And whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it.*  
ESV

- What do you make of Jesus’ very strong words in these “woes?”
- What do you think Jesus means when he says *you do not enter...nor allow those who would?*
- In V15, how do you think they make someone 2x a *child of hell*?
- Jesus hits hard the religious elite with the judgment of *blindness*. Why? What are they not seeing? Hint: *compare the essence of what is deemed right or OK by the religious leaders versus Jesus’ revelation on the matter...*
- What is the third woe about? Oath taking or something else?
- What do you think is Jesus’ hoped for outcome here with the religious leaders?
- ...for the non-religious elite gathered in the Temple Courts listening to him?
- How do these warnings to the Scribes and Pharisees strike you personally?
- Do Jesus’ words in this scene shape your understanding of the Kingdom of Heaven? Do they change or develop your thinking? If so, how?
- Take time to pray, repent, invite the Spirit to help you see if there are any words here directed to your heart.