

# BATTLEGROUND: Catching the Woe

LUKE 11:37-54

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■ Central Church

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■ Social Media: #BattleGrounds

## Catch the “Woe” for False Religion

1. Catch the Gospel **Opportunity** (37).
2. Catch the Gospel **Omission** (38-43).
3. Catch the Gospel **Offense** (45).
4. Catch the Gospel **Opposition** (44-46, 53-54).
5. Catch the Gospel **Oneness** (47-52).

### **Luke 11:37-54 (ESV)**

While Jesus was speaking, a Pharisee asked him to dine with him, so he went in and reclined at table. <sup>38</sup>The Pharisee was astonished to see that he did not first wash before dinner. <sup>39</sup>And the Lord said to him, “Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. <sup>40</sup>You fools! Did not he who made the outside make the inside also? <sup>41</sup>But give as alms those things that are within, and behold, everything is clean for you. <sup>42</sup>“But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and every herb, and neglect justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. <sup>43</sup>Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the best seat in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces. <sup>44</sup>Woe to you! For you are like unmarked graves, and people walk over them without knowing it.” <sup>45</sup>One of the lawyers answered him, “Teacher, in saying these things you insult us also.” <sup>46</sup>And he said, “Woe to you lawyers also! For you load people with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers. <sup>47</sup>Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets whom your fathers killed. <sup>48</sup>So you are witnesses and you consent to the deeds of your fathers, for they killed them, and you build their tombs. <sup>49</sup>Therefore also the Wisdom of God said, ‘I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute,’ <sup>50</sup>so that the blood of all the prophets, shed from the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation, <sup>51</sup>from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, it will be required of this generation. <sup>52</sup>Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter yourselves, and you hindered those who were entering.” <sup>53</sup>As he went away from there, the scribes and the Pharisees began to press him hard and to provoke him to speak about many things, <sup>54</sup>lying in wait for him, to catch him in something he might say.

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### APPLICATION QUESTIONS

*These questions are for further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help your fight for life change. One of the best ways to grow in the body is by discussing the answers to these questions in a small group. Find one here:*

[www.centralchurch.com/groups](http://www.centralchurch.com/groups)

1. Why do Christians tend to gravitate to legalism and false religion so often? Why are we so tempted to see legalism as a virtue rather than a serious sin worthy of Jesus' woe? What are some signs that we're trusting in external measurements rather than the grace of God in Jesus Christ?
  
2. **Read Col. 4:5-6 and 1 Pet. 3:15.** The gospel is offensive. This passage shows us that there is no escaping the offense of the gospel. Should we imitate Jesus in this passage in the manner that he deliberately confronts people? Consider Col. 4:5-6 and 1 Pet. 3:15 in your answer.
  
3. **Read Acts 4:12 and 1 Timothy 2:5.** How would you help someone trusting in their works see that Jesus is the only way to God?

### **Quote for the Week. . .**

by Randy Alcorn



*"Truth without grace degenerates into judgmental legalism. Grace without truth degenerates into deceitful tolerance."*

**Randy Alcorn, *The Grace and Truth Paradox*, 2003, Used by Permission from *Eternal Perspective Ministries*, [www.epm.org](http://www.epm.org), p. 88.**