



### **“Blessings and Curses”**

The Eight Woes: A Three-Part Series from Matthew 23  
Part 3: Matthew 23:23-33

**Big Idea:** When *The Eight Woes* of Matthew 23 are compared to *The Eight Beatitudes* of Matthew 5; the result is a picture of Beatitudes versus Bad-Attitudes. As we compare the final four “Woes” with the last four “Beatitudes” this morning, we must ask ourselves four searching questions to help us determine whether we are following Christ or living hypocritically.

- I. Do I neglect the ***spirit*** of the Law for the ***letter*** of the Law (5:7; 23:23-24)?
- II. Do I battle sin at its ***symptom*** or its ***source*** (5:8; 23:25-26)?
- III. Do I overflow with ***peace*** or ***lawlessness*** (5:9; 23:27-28)?
- IV. Do I ***suffer others*** or do ***others suffer*** me (5:10-12; 23:29-33)?

## **Matthew 5:7-12 -- Matthew 23:23-33**

**7 Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy (5:7).**

**23** “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others. **24** You blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel (23:23-24)!

**8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God (5:8).**

**25** “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence. **26** You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also (23:25-26).

**9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God (5:9).**

**27** “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. **28** So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness (23:27-28).

**10 Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you (5:10-12).**

**29** “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, **30** and say, ‘If we had been living in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partners with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’ **31** So you testify against yourselves, that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. **32** Fill up, then, the measure of the guilt of your fathers. **33** You serpents, you brood of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of hell (23:29-33)?