

Six Woes

Luke 11:37-54

by Don Falkos

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A Pharisee was offended when Jesus didn't wash before a meal.

Jesus said, "You Pharisees are fond of polishing the outside of your dishes, while inside yourselves you are full of greed and wickedness. If only you would give generously to the poor of the things God has placed inside you, then the outside things would become clean as a matter of course.

"Woe to you, Pharisees. You're careful to give to God a tenth of every little bit you earn. But you completely ignore people in need.

"Woe to you, Pharisees. You love to have the best seats in the synagogues, and you love to have others bow down to you in public.

"Woe to you, Pharisees. You are like unmarked graves people walk over without knowing the rot and corruption that lies underneath."

"And woe to you, experts in the Law. You load people down with more rules and regulations than they can possibly handle, yet you yourselves won't lift a finger to help them.

"Woe to you, experts in the Law. You build memorials to the prophets who were killed by your own ancestors. So God will hold you accountable for their blood.

"Woe to you, experts in the Law. You hold the key that would unlock the door to knowledge of God. Yet you refuse to use the key to go in. Instead you use the key to lock the door so no one else can go in either."

After Jesus left that place, the Pharisees and the experts in the Law became his fierce opponents. They bombarded him with all kinds of questions hoping he might say something they could use against him.