



THE GOSPEL OF
MATTHEW



Woeful Shepherds

Matthew 23:13-36



Gospel of Matthew

21-28 Overview

Chapters	Section	Subsections / Key Events
21–23	Temple Conflicts	Arrival in Jerusalem (21:1–11) First Temple Visit (21:12–17) Fruitless Fig Tree (21:18–22) Second Temple Visit—Series of Conflicts (21:23–23:39)
24–25	Olivet Discourse	Signs of the Future (Ch 24) Christ's Return (Ch 25)
26–28	The Passion of Christ	Betrayal (Ch 26) Death (Ch 27) Resurrection (Ch 28)



How do we avoid becoming or following blind shepherds?

I. Recognize

II. Reject

III. Rejoice



Passage Structure

A: #1 woe (v. 13)—Reject God's Ultimate Prophet

B: #2 woe (v. 15)—Destroy Others

C: #3 woe (vv. 16–22)—Misuse Scripture

D: #4 woe (vv. 23–24)—

Fundamental Failure to Understand Scripture

C': #5 woe (vv. 25–26)—Misuse Scripture

B': #6 woe (vv. 27–28)—Destroy Others

A': #7 woe (vv. 29–32)—Reject God's Prophets



I. Recognize Blind Shepherds

Woe #4



Recognize

Matthew 23:23-24

23 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. **24** You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!



I. Recognize Blind Shepherds

Woe #4



I. Recognize Blind Shepherds

Blind Shepherds are hypocrites who are blind to their own fundamental failure to understand Scripture because they overlook what's at the heart of it—love.



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II. Reject Blind Obedience

Legalists | Woe #3 and #5

Wolves | Woe #2 and #6

Snakes | Woe #1 and #7



Reject

Matthew 23:13-22

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. **15** Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and



Reject

Matthew 23:13-22

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



Reject

Matthew 23:13-22

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



Reject

Matthew 23:13-22

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.



Reject

Matthew 23:25-33

25 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.

26 You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.



Reject

Matthew 23:25-33

27 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. **28** So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.



Reject

Matthew 23:25-33

29 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous,
30 saying, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’ **31** Thus you



Reject

Matthew 23:25-33

witness against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. ³² Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers. ³³ You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell?



II. Reject Blind Obedience

Legalists | Woe #3 and #5

Wolves | Woe #2 and #6

Snakes | Woe #1 and #7



II. Reject Blind Obedience

Legalists—who misuse Scripture

Wolves—who destroy others

Snakes—who oppose God



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III. Rejoice in Blinding Judgment



Rejoice

Matthew 23:34-36

34 Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town, **35** so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of.



Rejoice

Matthew 23:34-36

Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar.
³⁶ Truly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.



III. Rejoice in Blinding Judgment



III. Rejoice in Blinding Judgment

Blinding Judgement because it leads to Salvation
and the Restoration of all things.



How do we avoid becoming or following blind shepherds?

I. Recognize Blind Shepherds | Woe #4

II. Reject Blind Obedience to

- a) Legalists | Woe #3 and #5
- b) Wolves | Woe #2 and #6
- c) Snakes | Woe #1 and #7

III. Rejoice in Blinding Judgment



Concluding Challenge

Every Sheep is also a Shepherd



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