

THE SEVEN WOES / *Matthew 23:14*

Jesus mentioned seven ways to guarantee God's anger, often called the "seven woes." These seven statements about the religious leaders must have been spoken with a mixed tone of judgment and sorrow. They were strong and unforgettable. They are still applicable anytime we become so involved in perfecting the practice of religion that we forget that God is also concerned with mercy, real love, and forgiveness.

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 23:14 | Not letting others enter the Kingdom of Heaven and not entering yourselves |
| 23:15 | Converting people away from God to be like yourselves |
| 23:16-22 | Blindly leading God's people to follow man-made traditions instead of God's Word |
| 23:23-24 | Involving yourself in every last detail and ignoring what is really important: justice, mercy, and faith |
| 23:25-26 | Keeping up appearances while your private world is corrupt |
| 23:27-28 | Acting spiritual to cover up sin |
| 23:29-36 | Pretending to have learned from history, but your present behavior shows you have learned nothing |