

Late Judean Ministry—Woes to Scribes and Pharisees (November 32)

Luke 11:37–54

37 Now when He had spoken, a Pharisee asked Him to have lunch with him; and He went in, and reclined *at the table*.

38 When the Pharisee saw it, he was surprised that He had not first ceremonially washed before the meal.

39 But the Lord said to him, “Now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and of the platter; but inside of you, you are full of robbery and wickedness.

40 You foolish ones, did not He who made the outside make the inside also?

41 But give that which is within as charity, and then all things are clean for you.

42 But woe to you Pharisees! For you pay tithe of mint and rue and every *kind of* garden herb, and yet disregard justice and the love of God; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others. [cf. [Mic 6:8](#)]

43 Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the chief seats in the synagogues and the respectful greetings in the market places.

44 Woe to you! For you are like concealed tombs, and the people who walk over *them* are unaware *of it*.” [cf. [Num 19:11–22](#)]

45 One of the lawyers said to Him in reply, “Teacher, when You say this, You insult us too.”

46 But He said, “Woe to you lawyers as well! For you weigh men down with burdens hard to bear, while you yourselves will not even touch the burdens with one of your fingers.

47 Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets, and *it was* your fathers *who* killed them.

48 So you are witnesses and approve the deeds of your fathers; because it was they who killed them, and you build *their tombs*.

49 For this reason also the wisdom of God said, ‘I will send to them prophets and apostles, and *some* of them they will kill and *some* they will persecute,

50 so that the blood of all the prophets, shed since the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation,

51 from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the house *of God*; yes, I tell you, it shall be charged against this generation.’ [cf. [2 Chr 24:20–25](#)]

52 Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge; you yourselves did not enter, and you hindered those who were entering.”

53 When He left there, the scribes and the Pharisees began to be very hostile and to question Him closely on many subjects,

54 plotting against Him to catch *Him* in something He might say.