

“Woe to You Pharisees!”

Sermon Notes

- **Jesus couldn't be any clearer – our church's mission & vision will only rise to the level of its leaders**

**So, leaders of Mound Free Church, be on your guard against...*

1. ... _____ (vv.37-41)

2. ... deformed _____ (v. 42)

3. ... _____ (v.43)

4. ... _____ (v.44)

5. ... _____ (vv.45-56)

6. ... repeating the errors of _____ (vv.47-51)

7. ... failing to embrace sin's only _____ (vv.52-54)

Next Week: Luke 12:1-3 - “Nothing is Hidden That Will Not Be Known”

MEFC Community Group Study Questions
For the Week of February 25th – March 3rd

Getting Started

1. How well would you say that you handle criticism?
Whether your answer is “usually pretty well”, “not well at all”, or “it depends...”, please elaborate.

Digging Deeper

2. In Psalm 141:5, David prays: “Let a righteous man strike me – it is a kindness; let him rebuke me – it is oil for my head; let my head not refuse it.” What is the meaning of this prayer? Have you ever prayed this way? If so, when? If not, why not?

Open Your Bible to Luke 11:37-54...

3. The washing that Jesus chooses not to engage in was rather common place in the Ancient Near East (Genesis 18:4; Judges 19:21). Why do you think he decided not to do it, even in the house of a Pharisee (vv.37-38)?
4. Jesus delivers four intense denunciations of the Pharisees in verses 39-44 (three of them in terms of “woes”). Which one in particular stands out to you? Why?
5. 1 Corinthians 10:13 reminds us that there's no temptation that's overtaken the Pharisee's that's not common to all of us. How are each of Jesus' rebukes relevant for every one of us, and uniquely for leaders in the 21st century?
6. In verses 45-52, Jesus continues with three more condemnations of the Jewish leaders – this time delivered to the experts of the law – all of them in the form of “woes”. Which one in particular stands out to you? Why?
7. As with the rebukes of the Pharisees discussed above, 1 Corinthians 10:13 reminds us that the lawyers are not

alone – either in their temptation or guilt. How are each of these rebukes relevant for leaders (uniquely in the 21st century)?

8. The Puritans liked to say: “The same sun that melts the ice hardens the clay.” What was it about these critiques that so hardened these Jewish leaders (vv.53-54)? What about you? Do Jesus' words here tend to melt your heart or harden it? Explain.

What is our Lord's disposition toward repentant leaders? Consider the experience of Peter in John 18:15-18, 25-27; 21:15-19 and close your time reflecting on the forgiveness that Jesus offers to those who will humble themselves and turn to him in repentance and faith.