

# Woe Unto You

1st - 3rd Grade  
Lesson 8

## The Reproof of Christ

So far, all of our lessons about Jesus have told about His love for everyone. He showed His love by healing people. He helped everyone who came to Him. The Bible tells us that God is love. (1 John 4:8)

But the Bible also tells us that God is holy. That means God never sins. Because He is holy, He hates sin. He says, "Be ye holy, for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16). God loves us, but He hates sin.

In this lesson, Jesus tells the leaders of His people about their sin. He tells them what they were doing wrong. He called these scribes and Pharisees hypocrites. He said these people pretended to love God, but in their hearts they did not.

### The Responsibility

The job of the scribes was to make copies of God's Word. There were no computers or printing presses back then. Every word was written with a pen and ink. The scribes should have known God's Word better than anyone else.

The Pharisees were rulers of God's people. It was their job to teach the people what God's Word said. They were supposed to show the people how God wanted them to live.

Jesus told the people to obey the teachings of the scribes and Pharisees. But He also told them, "Do not ye after their words: for they say, and do not" (Matthew 23:3).

### The Reality

The scribes brought offerings to the Lord like God told them to do. But they did not obey all of God's commands. They did not judge God's people in the right way. They did not show mercy toward the people. They did not have faith in God.

Instead of being good examples to the people, they wanted the people to treat them like they were important. They wanted to sit at the best tables at their feasts and in the synagogues. They wanted the people to call them *Rabbi*, or *master*. Instead of being good judges of God's people, they made up new rules for them. These rules made life hard for the people.

### The Reproof

Reproof is correction. It is telling someone what he is doing wrong. Jesus reproofed the scribes and Pharisees.

Jesus used the words, "Woe unto you scribes and Pharisees" eight times in chapter 23 of Matthew. He told them that their actions were keeping them and others out of Heaven. He told them that only God should be called Father or Master. He told them they should not try to

