

**Women's Bible Study**  
**Discussion Questions**

Matthew 23

1. In this chapter, Jesus warns the crowds and his disciples against the false leadership of the Pharisees. Note how Matthew deliberately contrasts Jesus' sermon with the song of Moses, delivered to the people of Israel before he died. Paying special attention to Deuteronomy 32:5, list the parallels between the song and the sermon that Matthew wants you to think about.
  
2. For what five things listed in verses 1-12 are the Pharisees rebuked?
  
3. The Pharisees would have been very familiar with other examples of "woe to you" sermons from the Old Testament, and Jesus follows a similar structure in his sermon (verses 13-36). When they pronounce the woes, what do Isaiah (for instance) and Jesus say people are missing (Is. 5:20, 23)?
  
4. Jesus labels these leaders of Israel as blind (5 times), and hypocrites (6 times). What is the difference between the two? Are the teachings of the Pharisees, scribes, and teachers of the law *wrong*?
  
5. It is easy to get caught in the trap of doing all the right things for the wrong reason. Share with your group one area of your life where you need prayer to avoid hypocritical attitudes and actions.