

**Whoa or Woe (Mt. 23:1-39)**  
1-7-18 - Small Group Questions

Getting Going (15 mins)

1. Settling in & Opening Prayer
2. In 1 minute or less, tell us about a highlight or lowlight from your life since we last met (since Thanksgiving for the newbies!).

Digging Deeper (40 mins)

1. Review: Last weeks message taught us to “forget what is behind” and “strain to what is ahead” by “pressing on toward the prize”. What do you need to forget? Where can you put effort (strain) for today? Reflect upon the prize, describing it in your own words.
2. In our text this week Jesus repeatedly calls the Pharisees and teachers of the law hypocrites. What is a hypocrite? To help fill in the definition, use a concordance to look up other verses with the word “hypocrite” or “hypocrites” or “hypocrisy” (don’t worry, there aren’t very many!).
3. In v. 12 Jesus connected their hypocrisy to a lack of humility. What is so important about humility? Consider the following verses for reference.
  - a. 1 Pet. 5:5-6
  - b. James 4:6 & 10
  - c. Rm. 12:3
  - d. Phil. 2:3-4
4. Do you think true humility could inoculate one against hypocrisy? Why or why not?

Practical Preparation (10 mins)

1. From our study we have learned that humility is very important. How can you foster humility in your life?
2. It’s usually quite easy to observe hypocrisy in others, but correct application of our text requires us to ask, “Am I hypocritical?” If you are, how so? What can you do to change?

Parting Prayer (15 mins)

Snack Time - *Optional question: Do you prefer dogs or cats (or neither) and why?*