

LifeGroup Deep Dive | “Beware the Woe” 04/26

Main Passage:

Luke 11:37–54

Supporting Passages:

Micah 6:8, Matthew 23:23–28, Isaiah 58:6–9, James 3:13–18, Galatians 5:1, Matthew 11:28–30

Main Idea / Question:

The greatest spiritual danger may not be open rebellion... but subtle self-righteousness.

This week we're not merely asking: *Where am I right?* We're asking:
Where might my heart be drifting while my life still looks polished?

PORCH TALK

Leader Setup: This is not a week to discuss “those Pharisees.”

This is a week to ask: **Where might Pharisical tendencies hide in me?**

Conversation Starters (choose 3–4)

What part of Sunday's message confronted you the most personally?

Why do you think subtle self-righteousness can be harder to recognize than obvious sin?

Where is it easiest to care more about being correct than being compassionate?

Have you ever experienced someone making following Jesus feel heavier instead of freer?

Where have you seen religion burden people instead of help people?

Reference Scriptures: *Romans 2:1–4, Hosea 6:6, Colossians 2:20–23, 1 Peter 5:5–6, Ephesians 4:29–32, Matthew 7:1–5, Titus 3:3–7, Psalm 51:10–17*

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LIVING ROOM

(Deeper discipleship dialogue)

1) When Lesser Things Replace Weightier Things

Read: Luke 11:42; Micah 6:8

Context: Jesus isn’t condemning discipline. He is confronting distorted priorities.

Say: It is possible to be careful in religion and careless in love.

Ask (go slow here): Where do you tend to focus on lesser things while neglecting weightier things? How can being “right” sometimes keep us from being merciful? What spiritual disciplines can become substitutes for love if we’re not careful? Where have you confused faithfulness with mere performance? How do we know when devotion has become duty without tenderness?

2) When Motives Quietly Shift

Read: Luke 11:43–44; James 3:13–18

Say: Jesus doesn’t just confront actions. He confronts what we love “You love the best seats...” That cuts deep.

Ask: Where do recognition and approval still subtly shape you? How do we know when serving God has become about being seen? What’s the difference between wanting influence and wanting applause? How does humility protect us from spiritual performance? What would hidden faithfulness look like for you right now?

Reflection Verse

“Do nothing from selfish ambition...” — Philippians 2:3

Reference Scriptures: *Romans 2:1–4, Hosea 6:6, Colossians 2:20–23, 1 Peter 5:5–6, Ephesians 4:29–32, Matthew 7:1–5, Titus 3:3–7, Psalm 51:10–17*

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3) Are We Making Following Jesus Heavy or Free?

Read: Luke 11:46; Matthew 11:28–30

Context: They added burdens. Jesus lifts burdens. Huge difference.

Say: One of the hardest questions we can ask: Does my posture make following Jesus feel heavier... or freer?

Ask: Have your convictions ever become weights for others? How can truth be used to control instead of shepherd? Where might legalism show up subtly in modern discipleship? How can grace keep conviction from becoming crushing? How can we help people walk toward Jesus instead of placing hurdles before them?

Reflection Thought:

Mature faith does not crush people under truth.
It carries people toward grace.

4) Don't Hold the Key and Lock the Door

Read: Luke 11:52

Say: This may be the heaviest woe. You had the key... but used it to hinder.

Ask: How can Christians unintentionally make access to God harder? What “extra hurdles” do believers sometimes impose that Jesus does not? How can spiritual maturity make grace clearer? What does it look like to use truth like a key instead of a weapon? Where might your heart posture create traps for others?

Reflection Verse

“For freedom Christ has set us free.” — Galatians 5:1

Reference Scriptures: *Romans 2:1–4, Hosea 6:6, Colossians 2:20–23, 1 Peter 5:5–6, Ephesians 4:29–32, Matthew 7:1–5, Titus 3:3–7, Psalm 51:10–17*

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AFTER GLOW

(Prayerful reflection & ministry space)

Read: Isaiah 58:6–9

Say: The goal of this text isn't guilt. It's freedom. Jesus is exposing what burdens so He can restore what heals.

Reflective Questions: Where has self-righteousness shown up subtly in you? Where has your heart become more rigid than tender? Have you made following Jesus heavy for yourself? What would repentance look like in posture—not just behavior?

Reflection Thought

Repentance is not merely turning from wrong actions; it is returning to the heart of God.

After Glow Moment — Lay Down the Burden

Reflect quietly: Where have I added weight Jesus never added?

Pray: Lord, make me someone who opens doors, lifts burdens, and reflects Your grace.

FOLLOW-UP & CHALLENGE

Movement	Practice
Reorder Priorities	Don't neglect the weightier things.
Check Your Motives	Let humility expose performance.
Lift One Burden	Help carry instead of adding weight.
Open One Door	Make Jesus clearer for someone.

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