

The Gospel of Luke

A Warning Against Hypocrisy

Luke 12:1-12

1. Beware Who You **Follow** (vs.1-3)

Jesus warned the disciples to beware of the aggressively invasive influence of pharisaic hypocrisy. The pharisees, who put on a public show of external godliness while secretly living in ungodliness, had already been exposed as hypocrites by Jesus (Luke 11:39ff). God knows man's heart and He will not be fooled by faux faith; He will expose it (Jer 17:10; Rom 2:16; 1 Cor 4:5; 1 Tim 5:24).

2. Beware Who You **Fear** (vs.4-7)

A. The Power of Man (v.4)

Religious hypocrites actions are largely governed by fear of men (Matt 11:32; Luke 22:2). Martyrdom was a genuine reality for Jesus' disciples (Matt 14:8; Acts 12:2), but Jesus instructs them not to fear the worst that they can do.

B. The Power of God (v.5)

God reserves for Himself the ultimate power and authority of killing and of condemnation (Deut 32:39; Matt 25:46; Rev 20:10-15).

C. The Care of God and the Power of Man (vs.6-7)

Absolutely nothing is outside the knowledge and watchful care of God; men have only the power to do what God allows (Job 1:12; 2:6). Those who trust the Lord that, in everything that comes to pass, God is providentially working out His plan for our ultimate good (Rom 8:28-29 cf. Job 2:9; 7:15).

3. Beware To Whom You Are **Faithful** (vs.8-10)

A. Confession of Jesus is Faithfulness to God (vs.8-9)

All true disciples of Jesus will confess Jesus publicly irrespective of circumstance or consequence (John 9:22; Acts 24:14ff; cf. Matt 26:34, 75; John 21:15-17). Anyone who ultimately denies Jesus is guaranteed of His total denial of them (1 John 2:23; 5:12; Matt 7:21-23).

B. Denial of the Spirit is Faithlessness to God (v.10)

Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is the unpardonable sin (cf. Matt 12:31-32; Mark 3:28-29). The primary reason why this sin is unforgivable is that those who do it have rejected the message of the Spirit (John 14:26; 16:12-15).

4. Be at Peace Before Your **Foes** (vs.11-12)

Most people feel inadequate when considering giving a defense of their faith before a hostile audience, Jesus assures His disciples that the Spirit will be a minister of great comfort in their hour of need (cf. Matt 10:20; Mark 13:11).