

Luke 12:1-7 – “Fear God and Not Men”

- A. Secular psychology does not give us the best answers for dealing with fear.¹
- B. Word about Jesus began to spread about His authoritative preaching and miraculous signs and wonders. His growing popularity is evident in **v1**.
- B. With this huge gathering, Jesus began to preach. His sermon was recorded in **Lu 12:1 to 13:9**.

You are to fear and trust God and not men.	I. <u>BEWARE OF HYPOCRISY</u> II. <u>FEAR GOD AND NOT MEN</u> III. <u>TRUST YOUR SOVEREIGN GOD</u>
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I. **BEWARE OF HYPOCRISY** → middle of **v1**

- A. Another word for “**leaven**” is yeast. If given enough time and the right conditions such as proper temperature and moisture, a few granules of yeast can work their way throughout a large amount of dough.
 - 1. Jesus said that the hypocrisy of the Pharisees was like that.
 - 2. Normally, yeast working its way through dough is desirable because it makes bread fluffy.
 - 3. Here in **v1**, the persistent spread and multiplication of yeast spores is used as an illustration of how the sin of hypocrisy can be contagious.
 - a. In the church, when one’s religious authorities commit certain sins, it encourages others to do the same.
 - b. The danger of hypocrisy is that it can breed compromise and even unbelief.
 - c. We must flee following hypocrisy from whomever we may observe it. This includes parents, teachers, and your closest friends.
- B. Not only the Pharisees but all modern religious leaders living in hypocrisy and gross compromise will be exposed for all to see on the day of judgment. →**vv2-3**
 - 1. Paul in **Rom 2:16** said on that day, “**God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.**”
 - 2. Letting Scripture interpret Scripture, the best interpretation is that wicked hypocrites will be exposed and brought to shame at the judgment.
 - 3. For the elect, Jesus said in **v8**, “**everyone who confesses Me before men, the Son of Man will confess him also before the angels of God.**”
 - 4. WSC 38: “*What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?*”
Answer: “At the resurrection, believers, being raised up in glory, shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment, and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God to all eternity.”
 - 5. If we earnestly examine ourselves, none of us are as consistent as we ought to be. It is the Christian’s life-long endeavor to be conformed to the image of Christ as part of our sanctification.

¹ <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/basics/fear>

II. FEAR GOD AND NOT MEN → vv4-5

A. For most of us it doesn't take the threat of death to make us fear others enough to compromise. The fear of embarrassment is enough to make some of us too afraid to speak of Jesus.

1. In the first commandment, God said, **"You shall have no other gods before Me" (Ex 20:3).**
2. If we care more about what others think of us than what God thinks of us, we have sinned by making ourselves idols. In some cases, we can make others false gods of greater importance than the only true God of heaven.

B. Jesus said that the worst someone can do to you is **"kill the body and after that have no more that they can do" (v4).**

1. This was an important thing to say to His disciples because many would give up their lives for their Christian faith.
2. Christians in many parts of the world still suffer death for their faith.
3. As dreadful as it may be, even a very painful death is but a drop of water in the ocean of eternity.
Rom 8:18: "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

C. Jesus said we ought to consider what God can do to us verses what mankind can do to us. A person can kill your body, **"But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!" (v5).**

1. A proper fear of God is the cure for your fear of people.
2. Put Him and His kingdom first and He will take care of all the other needs in your life.

III. TRUST YOUR SOVEREIGN GOD → vv6-7

A. Of all the birds one could buy in the marketplace, sparrows were the least expensive.

1. Such a little bird that wasn't worth much, yet God in His sovereignty did not forget one of them.
2. He watched over, fed, and cared for each one until the last day of life He ordained for each one to live on this earth.
 - a. Especially for the son or daughter of God, Jesus said, **"Do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows."**
 - b. You are to fear Him, yet you are not to be fearful regarding the details of your life.
3. Just as He cares for the sparrows, not one person is forgotten by God's sovereign care.
 - a. This includes believer and unbeliever alike.
 - b. God **"causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous" (Mat 5:45).**
 - c. Our God's sovereign care for unbelievers makes their sin and rejection of His Son all the more sinful.

B. God is in control of every minutia— every minor detail— in your life. **"Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered"** by God (v7).

1. Since your Father knows these intricate details in your life, He also knows how many years, days, and hours you have been given to live.
2. Jesus will say later on in v25 of this same chapter: **"And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life's span?"**
3. This requires faith and trust in God and His sovereign plan for your life.
 - a. It is almost expected to see people fall apart at the seams when they get very bad news.
 - b. It is rare to find someone who trusts God in the very way our text teaches.

Review, conclusion, and further application: