

INTRODUCTION: FEAR RESTRAINS FROM ONE & PROVOKES TO OPPOSITE

(e.g., phobias; disobedience/obedience; see Eccl.12:13; Dt.10:12)

I. LESSONS FROM GOSPEL HARMONY FOR FEARLESS CONFESSION OF JESUS

(Mt.10:26f; Lk.12:2f)

- A. CONFESS/NOT DENY JESUS** (Mt.10:32,33; Lk.12:8,9; see Jn.1:20; 1Jn.2:23; see Amos 3:8)
- B. SON OF GOD; SON OF MAN** (Mt.10:32,33; Lk.12:8; see Lk.1:35; Jn.1:14; Dan.7:13; Mt.24:37; Rev.1:13)
- C. WHAT I TELL YOU PRIVATELY** (Mt.10:26,27; Lk.12:2,3; see Mt.16:13-20; Mt.1:23)
- D. IN OPPORTUNITY & ON DEMAND** (Mt.10:26,27(1f) & Lk.12:2(11:53f); see Mk.4; Lk.8; Mt.5)
- E. SOME IN OFFICE & ALL IN PERSON** (Mt.10:1; 11:1; see Acts 8:5&4)
- F. DO NOT FEAR MAN & DENY JESUS** (Mt.10:26f,33; Lk.12:4f,9; see Is.57:11)
 - 1. man has some power to harm and help (Mt.10:17f,25f; Lk.11:47f; 12:1f)
 - 2. man's power to harm is limited in extent & time (Mt.10:28a; Lk.12:4; see Ps.56:4,11; 118:6; Heb.13:6)
- G. FEAR GOD & CONFESS JESUS**
 - 1. God's power & authority to harm are unlimited in extent & time (Mt.10:28b; Lk.12:5 /Is66:24; Mk9:48)
 - 2. God's commitment to help is perfect (Mt.10:29-31(6:26f); Lk.12:6,7 /1Chr16:34,41; Ps136:1f; etc; Is41:13f)

II. OTHER LESSONS FOR FEARLESS CONFESSION

- A. FAITHLESS PEOPLE WILL PERSECUTE AND KILL FAITHFUL PEOPLE** (Lk.11:49f; 2Tm.3:12; 1Pt.3:14; Rev.2:10)
- B. GOD WILL DAMN FAITHLESS PEOPLE AND SAVE FAITHFUL PEOPLE** (Lk.11:47f,42f; Mt.7:23; Rev.21:8; 1Th.4:13f; 2Tm.2:13; 2Pt.3:13)
- C. MAN IS NOT GOD TO HURT OR HELP: DON'T FEAR OR TRUST** (Dt.1:17; Ps.20:7f; Jer.10:5f)
- D. DO NOT FEAR MAN, BECAUSE GOD IS WITH US** (Gen.15:1; 26:24; Num.14:9; 2Kngs.6:16; Ps.118:6)
- E. NOT FEAR & DISMAY BEFORE MAN BUT STRENGTH & COURAGE IN GOD** (Josh.10:25; 1Chr.22:13; 28:20; 3Chr.32:7; Ps.27:3; Joel 2:21)
- F. IF YOU FEAR HIM, YOU WILL KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS** (2Kngs.17:34; Is.51:7; see Jn.14:15; see Jer.26:19)

III. CONFESS CHRIST WITH CONFIDENCE IN GOD!

- A. FEAR & HOPE IN GOD, NOT MANKIND** (Mt.10:28f; Lk.12:4f; see Dt.1:17; Ps.20:7f; Jer.10:5f; Ps.56:4,11; 118:6; Heb.13:6)
- B. SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITIES GOD GIVES YOU TO CONFESS JESUS AS THE SON OF GOD, THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD** (Mt.10:26f; see 1Th.5:19 w/Mt.12:20; 1Jn.4:14; Acts 17:16f; see Mt.16:16f,21f; note: "IXThUS")
- C. PREPARE TO ANSWER THE ACCUSATIONS OF MEN WITH A CONFESSION OF JESUS AS THE SON OF GOD, THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD** (Lk.12:1f; see 1Tm.6:13; Mt.27:11(26:63); Ps.40:9f; see Mt.26:69f(2Tm.2:12f))