

Luke 12:1-12 - Dangers of Hypocrisy

Luk 12:1-3 ESV In the meantime, when so many thousands of the people had gathered together that they were trampling one another, he began to say to his disciples first, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. 2 Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. 3 Therefore whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed on the housetops.

Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy

- **Beware** = to hold the mind towards, that is pay attention to, be cautious about
- **Leaven** = like sourdough or yeast - it only takes a small amount to affect the entire loaf and because it is a fermenting process it takes time
- **Hypocrisy** = A **mask** used in acting -- pretending to be something you are not
 - It's strength is in hiding --- nothing is hidden from God - all will one day be revealed

Matt 23 describes the hypocrisy of the Pharisees --- in summary

- They do not practice what they preach
- Focused more on how others see them rather than how God sees them

Dangers of Hypocrisy - Peter in Antioch

Gal 2:11-16 ESV But when **Cephas** came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. 12 For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. 13 And the **rest of the Jews** acted hypocritically along with him, so that even **Barnabas** was led astray by their hypocrisy. 14 But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, "If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?"

- Hypocrisy emboldens others to follow you & leads others astray
- Hypocrisy takes us out of step with the truth of the gospel
- Hypocrisy leads to double standards
 - He was a Jew living like a Gentile & expecting Gentiles to live like Jews
- Any of us are susceptible - this happened to 2 spiritual leaders as well as the other Jews
- **The strength of hypocrisy came about because of fear (fearing the circumcision party)**

One driver of Hypocrisy = Fear - Jesus addresses that next

Peter --- fearing the circumcision drew back

1) Fear of man - There is only one judge that I must answer to

Luk 12:4-5 "I tell you, my friends, **do not fear** those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. 5 But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, **has authority to cast into hell**. Yes, I tell you, fear him!

- Rom 2:16 ESV on that day when, according to my gospel, **God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.**

2) Fear of Insignificance (you are of great value to God)

Luk 12:6-7 Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. 7 Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ***Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.***

He does not forget us

- We are of more value than many sparrows - insignificant creatures - not one is forgotten
- [13.7 million birds die in the US every day](#) - Not one sparrow falls that He doesn't know it
- **His thoughts toward us**
 - Psa 139:17-18 KJV How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! 18 If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee.
 - [How many grains of sand on earth?](#) seven quintillion, five hundred quadrillion 17,500,000,000,000,000

He pays attention to every detail in my life

- Imagine that He would actually "do the math" and count our hair
 - [How many hairs on the human head?](#)
 - blonde 150,000, brown haired 110,000, black haired 100,000, red haired 90,000
- **100,000 hairs is no big deal...He names the stars**
 - Psa 147:4-5 NIV He determines the number of the stars and ***calls them each by name.*** 5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.
 - [take] a very rough estimate of 10 trillion galaxies in the universe. Multiplying that by the Milky Way's estimated 100 billion stars results in [100 octillion stars](#), or 100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 stars, or a "1" with 29 zeros after it.

3) Fear of Reputation (It matters what HE thinks - not what others think)

Luke 12:8-9 "And I tell you, ***everyone who acknowledges me before men,*** the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, 9 but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God.

Acknowledge / Confess - to say together - to assent, that is, covenant, acknowledge: - con- (pro-) fess, confession is made, give thanks, promise...**or Deny**

Don't be ashamed

- 2Ti 1:7-8 ESV for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. 8 ***Therefore do not be ashamed*** of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God,

4) Fear of Being Out of Control

Luke 12:10-12 And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. 11 And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, ***do not be anxious*** about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, 12 for ***the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour*** what you ought to say."

In terms of acknowledging or denying Him - don't fear being taken before authorities...you will be given words to say - you won't have to deny, you won't have to be a hypocrite...the Holy Spirit will give you words to say.

Peter

- Peter denied Jesus on the night of his betrayal
- Later - having been filled with the Holy Spirit -- Peter acknowledged Jesus before the Sanhedrin(Acts 4:19) - "we must obey God rather than men"
- Eventually Peter gave his life as a martyr

What is Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit

- Calling the work of the Holy Spirit as from the devil (Mark 3:20-30)

Jesus in this scripture reinforces the idea that the Holy Spirit is here to help us

- Acts 4:29-31 KJV And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, (30) By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. (31) And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and ***they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.***

A Church Environment that Helps Us Avoid Hypocrisy

Sincerity and Truth - 1Co 5:8 KJV Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of **sincerity and truth.**

- **Sincerity** - judged by sunlight
- **Truth** - true as not concealing

Accept One Another - Romans 15:7 NIV Accept one another, then, ***just as Christ accepted you,*** in order to bring praise to God.

Confess Your Sins to Each Other - James 5:16 NIV Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.