

Luke 12 Pt 1 vv1-11

Magnify the Lord/Accepted in the Beloved

- **Ch 11: Jesus to Jerusalem.** Final Instructions Begin

1. **Teaches us** How to pray
2. **Insists we** Choose a side
3. **Rebukes those** Don't believe/Demand sign
4. **Encourages all** Seek Truth/Light/Revelation only in Him/Word of God
5. **Slams** Religious Leaders Hypocrisy

Not quite finished dismantling their heretical teaching before the people
I.e., Salvation by Good Deeds

I. Leaven of Legalism

1 In the meantime, when an **innumerable multitude** of people had gathered together, so that they trampled one another, He began to **say to His disciples** first of all, "**Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.**"

- **Innumerable Multitude:** Drawn to His Grace
- **Recipients:** Disciples/Learners

Are we still Disciples/Learners?

When we stop learning we stop growing

- **Leaven/Yeast:** Likened to sin. Corrupts/Spreads
- **Beware Leaven of Pharisees:** Hypocrisy/Teaching

Matthew 16:12 Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the **doctrine** of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

- **Teaching:** You must keep the Law to be saved
- **Beware:** Don't desire to be like them. Re. What they teach/Hypocrisy

Newsflash: Cleaning yourself up is NOT salvation!

- **Hypocrites/Pretenders:** Do what I say not what I do...Didn't practice what they preached

Romans 2:17 Indeed you are called a Jew, and rest [rely] on the law, and make your boast in God, 18 and know His will, and approve the things that are excellent, being instructed out of the law, 19 and are confident that you yourself are a **guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, 20 an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes**, having the form of knowledge and truth in the law [system]. 21 You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? 22 You who say, "Do not commit adultery," do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? 23 You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law? 24 For "the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you," as it is written. You say you are keeping the law but everyone sees you don't

The day is coming when hypocrites will be stripped of their fig-leaves. [Henry]

The world is ready for Legalism...

Groups are ready to *sign you up* and *shine you up*

- **Pitch?** Keep the Law/Perfect Family/T's crossed/I's dotted...deceived by bad teaching

1 Timothy 1:6b... some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, 7 desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm. 8 But we know that the **law is good** if one **uses it lawfully**, 9 knowing this: that **the law is not made for a righteous person**, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, 10 for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine, 11 according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust.

- Law is for law breakers to realize they need a Savior. Period.
- **False Teachers:** Misuse the Law of God claiming it make one righteous

Romans 7:7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law.

▪ **God's Perfect Law:**

1. *Reveals* sin to the sinner, but...
2. *Unable* to make sinner righteous
3. *Incapable* of controlling sin...

Colossians 2:23 [Has] an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

- If the Law cannot make me righteous **what** does? Wrong question.
- If the Law cannot make me righteous Who can? ...**Jesus**

Galatians 3:12 ...the law is not of faith, but "the man who does them shall live by them." [but no one can, so...] **13 Christ has redeemed us** [bought us] **from the curse of the law**, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), **14b...**that we might receive the **promise of the Spirit through**

There are no 10 Commandments on the Wall.

We assume the reason you are here is because you already read them...

- **Curse of the Law:** Must be kept perfectly. We cant. We're doomed
- **Blessing of Jesus:** He kept it perfectly. He clothes us w/His righteousness we're saved

Romans 3:21 But now the **righteousness of God apart from the law** is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets 22 even the **righteousness of God, through faith** in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.

If you are in Christ and Christ is in you...You are 100% accepted by God in Christ
IOWs you can never be more accepted by what you do than you are right now

Philippians 3:7 [Of his previous self-righteousness]... what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be **found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in**

Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection...

When you believed you were baptized into Christ.
Death/Resurrection. Accepted by God forever...

Jesus went to the Cross to become sin for us/Clothe us w/His Righteousness
Jesus: Beware. How dare anyone teach we can be righteous in any other way

2 Corinthians 5:21 [God] made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- We are now the righteousness of God if we humbly received Jesus by faith
- **Sign of a True Believer is humility...** Realize our need.

We come with nothing but our sin...
We receive His perfect righteousness apart from the law...We need it. We are not good

Romans 3:10 As it is written: "There is **none righteous**, no, not one; 11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. 12 They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."... 27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. 28 Therefore we conclude that **a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.**

We are not saved by what we do but by what Jesus did. What Jesus did is the very reason we now do what we do, and can only continue to do what we do empowered His Spirit in us which allows Him to do what He presently desires to do through us. IOWs it's not by trying harder but by surrendering/yielding our will to the indwelling Spirit of Jesus that we can fulfill the will of God in our lives. [NJC]

- **Law is only a mirror to reveal our wretched state...** [Stolen/Lied/Lusted]

Romans 7:24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!

- **People:** Gravitated to Grace/Mercy Jesus offered...
- **Pharisees:** Offended by grace/How dare I get no glory for myself

If it offends us to be called wretched...We ain't ready for Salvation
Sign of a true believer is humility followed by obedience as the law convicts

- **If the Law a Mirror/Jesus Living Water:** Cleanses us of all sin, guilt, shame

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are **in Christ Jesus**, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has **made me free from the law of sin and death.** 3 For what the **law could not do** in that it was weak through the flesh, **God did** by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the **righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled** in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

We are now free from the curse of the law [Gal 3:13]. **We now truly live...**
Walk in the Spirit as Jesus fulfills the righteous requirements of the law through us

- **If His Spirit is in us...we will change.** Sanctification. Become more like Jesus

Faith not resulting in good fruit/change is not saving faith. [NJC]

IOWs: If the free gift of **positional righteousness** does not lead to **practical righteousness**...we never actually received the free gift. [NJC]

Beware the leaven of the Pharisees: Spiritual Pride exemplified in teaching/hypocrisy...
Their sin will find them out

² For there is nothing covered that will not be **revealed**, nor hidden that will not be known. ³ Therefore whatever you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops.

- **Warning to Disciples:** Beware of being envious of the self-righteous
- Want to sign you up and shine you up yet you will never find salvation without dying to self

Pick out your clothes: Plaid pants/Red Turtleneck sweater
Your own righteousness or the Righteousness of Christ

Ephesians 1:6 [Paul speak of the Glory of His Grace] ...by which He made us **accepted in the Beloved**. ⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the **riches of His grace**

- We choose to be accepted in the Beloved/Clothed in righteousness of Christ
- Don't show up to judgment in plaid pants

II. Don't Fear Men

⁴ "And I say to you, **My friends**, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. ⁵ But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, **fear Him!**

- Jesus follows His warning to Disciples w/**Instructions to friends**

Those who hate Me will hate you also...Be Ready

2 Timothy 3:12 Yes, and **all** who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

- **Only one response to Persecution/Provocation/Intimidation. Fear**
- **Good News:** We get to choose who we fear...Men or God
 1. **Fear men** who can only kill the temporal body No
 2. **Fear God** who can damn the eternal soul Yes
- **Benefits** of Fearing God vs Fear of Man

Proverbs 14:27 The **fear of the Lord** is a **fountain of life**, To turn one away from the snares of death.

Proverbs 29:25 The **fear of man** brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the Lord shall be **safe**.

Psalm 111:10 The **fear of the Lord** is the beginning of wisdom

Psalm 19:9 The fear of the Lord is **clean**, enduring forever...

- When government edicts conflict w/God's Word...**we obey God every time**

Acts 4:18 [Religious Leaders] ...called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to **listen to you more than to God**, you judge. 20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."

Acts 5:28 [High Priest] "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!" 29 But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "**We ought to obey God rather than men.** 30 [BTW] The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree."

The fear of God is the fear that conquers all other fears, for the person who truly fears God **need fear nothing else.** [Wiersbe]

The antidote to fear is fear. It's a decision of the heart/mind made in real time to obey God [NJC]

Since the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom, and the fear of God is clean, and the fear of God is safe, and the fear of God is life...how are we presently doing as a society? By the authority of God's Word we can say without doubt that we are not wise, not safe, not clean, and not truly alive. [NJC]

- **Lack of fear of God:** Wisdom can't even get off the starting block
- IOW's **not fearing God/His Word is foolish.**
- As per Jesus **it also has and has eternal consequences...**

Jesus: Fear Him who has power to cast into hell. **Yes I say to you fear Him!**

- Jesus continues encouraging those he calls friends...Those that are His.

We fear God but **not judgment.** Jesus took that for those He calls His friends...

6 Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. 7 But the very **hairs of your head are all numbered.** Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Isaiah 63:9 [God's Love for His people] In all their affliction He was afflicted, And the Angel of His Presence **saved them**; In His love and in His pity He **redeemed them**; And He **bore them** and **carried them** All the days of old.

- **Jesus still comforts those He calls friends v4:**
 1. God knows all about you
 2. God will never forget you
 3. You have high value in the eyes of God: You are His Pearl of Great Price/Treasure

8 "Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will **confess before the angels of God**. 9 But he who denies Me before men will be **denied before the angels of God**.

No one will be dragged into heaven...

- **Deny** before men: gr. *ar-neh'-om-ahee* lit. Contradict, disavow, reject
- **Deny** before angels: gr. *ap-ar-neh'-om-ahee*. lit. Affirm **no** acquaintance/connection

IOWs These are not rejected by Christ *because* they denied Christ
But denying reflects lack of Saving Faith/Relationship w/Christ. No HS

Matthew 25:11 [5 Virgins w/out oil] "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' 12 But he answered...'Assuredly, I say to you, **I do not know you.**'

- **Strong warning to enemies:** Do not reject free gift of Salvation
- **Great Encouragement to friends:** Those who would never reject Him...

Assuredly we never want to deny Him-neither will we deny Him. [JV McGee]

John 6:67 ...Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" 68 But Simon Peter answered Him, "**Lord, to whom shall we go?** You have the words of eternal life. 69 Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

10 "And anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but to him who **blasphemes against the Holy Spirit**, it will not be forgiven.

- Speaking against Jesus in a weak moment will be forgiven
- Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit will never be/Can never forgiven

Blasphemy against the Spirit is more than a formula of words; it is **a settled disposition of life that rejects the testimony of the Holy Spirit regarding Jesus**. Even if someone has intentionally said such things, they can still repent and prevent a settled rejection of Jesus... **The way to not blaspheme the Holy Spirit** is to receive Jesus Christ, and to put one's loving trust upon Him today. It means to stop rejecting the work of the Holy Spirit in bringing us to Jesus. [Guzik]

- Jesus continues final instructions for after His departure
- When you reject the religious leaders their will be consequences...but help is with you

11 "Now when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. 12 For the Holy Spirit will teach you in **that very hour** what you ought to say."

Do... Tell people about Jesus

Don't... Make a script/rehearse what to say

Instead... Listen for God. Listen to God. Walk freely w/God. As He lives in you allow Him to accomplish His will through you. Enjoy the New Wine. New Paradigm. **New lease on Life...Spirit led abundant victorious living...**

John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that **they may have life**, and that they may **have it more abundantly**.

- Cease striving/trying harder. Instead draw closer/rest in what Jesus did...

Matthew 11:28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and **I will give you rest**. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and **you will find rest for your souls**.

- You are Accepted in the Beloved