

The Antidote for Hypocrisy

Luke 12:1–3 (ESV)

INTRODUCTION:

Remember the last time we were together in Luke; we looked at the subject of Jesus and Hypocrisy.

WE said that - The Greek word Jesus used is hupo - crates - The word means an actor. The Greek actors would wear masks that portrayed whatever emotion the part required.

- **SAD** - So if the Actor was playing a sad role, he would wear a mask with a frown and tear drops rolling down the cheeks.
- **ANGRY** - If the Actor was playing the part of an angry character, the mask would be an angry mask.

A Hypocrite does the same thing— *he or she portrays something externally that is incongruent with internal reality.*

Craig Groshael said it this way -

- Hypocrisy is not the gap between what we do and what we wish we did.
- Hypocrisy is the gap between what we advertise ourselves to be and what we actually are.

CONTEXT: Last week, Jesus dealt with the Problem of Hypocrisy; this week, He gives us the Antidote. What is the cure for Hypocrisy?

TEXT: Luke 12:1–3 (ESV)

¹ 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...

Three things I want to show you in our Text:

1. The Potential of Hypocrisy

1b. “**Beware** of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

I want to draw your attention to the word “Beware”. Now, to whom is Jesus saying these words? Well, we just read it earlier - verse one tells us this statement is addressed to the DISCIPLES.

That’s important - So Jesus is saying, “Disciples, beware because what is happening among the Pharisees has the potential of spreading to you.”

In other words, don't get the idea that hypocrisy is something the bad guys do; it could never happen among our people. If it wasn't something to be concerned about, Jesus would not have warned us to beware.

ILLUSTRATION: There are no signs saying, "Beware of Gators" in Michigan. Why? Chances are not very high that there's a gator up there. But they are all over the place here. So you have to beware!

When you come to Christ you are:

- Immediately delivered from the **PENALTY** of sin - through forgiveness.
- Progressively delivered from the **POWER** of sin - through sanctification.
- Ultimately delivered from the **PRESENCE** of sin - through resurrection.

But while you walk this earth, your potential for sin is not mitigated. You have just as much ability to sin as you did previously. God doesn't zap it away.

Therefore, you must beware. Be on the alert. Keep your guard up.

ILLUSTRATION: English Preacher John Bradford (circa 1510–1555) was watching a group of criminals being led to the scaffold and said, "There but for the grace of God, goes John Bradford." Which gave rise to the phrase, there but for the grace of God go I. It sounds good, it certainly sounds humble. But whoever says that must not have read the rest of the story - because the fact is, John Bradford was executed a few days after making that statement.

We get the idea, that somehow, there is a supernatural enablement within us that somehow keeps us from sinning. That is not biblical.

While salvation is completely and entirely a work of God. All we contribute is the sin God forgives.

Sanctification is cooperation with the Spirit of God. It does involve effort and an intentional will to obey God's word.

So, recognize that you, too, could fall into the worst forms of hypocrisy. You too, could become a spiritual fraud.

Not only the potential of Hypocrisy..., but secondly, notice...

2. The Propagation of Hypocrisy

1b. "Beware of the **leaven** of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

Leaven is a term we use sparingly these days. It is basically the substance that causes bread to rise.

ILLUSTRATION: Years ago, someone gave my wife some Amish Friendship Bread Starter. Well, she would take a portion of that starter, mix it with flour, and make the best bread. But the starter contained YEAST or LEAVEN.

ILLUSTRATION: I remember a pastor telling me that a lady in his church had made the best-unleavened bread for the Lord's Supper. When he showed it to me, it was the fluffiest loaf of bread you've ever seen. I said, "It's not unleavened." He said, "Oh, yes, it is. I asked her specifically not to use the ingredient leaven, and she assured me that she did not.

Well, that **self-rising Martha White flour** she used had something in it called Baking Powder, which is a combination of sodium bicarbonate, acid, and cornstarch, which produces a dry chemical **leavener**.

Unleavened bread is FLAT bread. It was used in celebrating the Passover. Part of the ceremony of Passover is that the family thoroughly sweeps the entire home so that all of the leaven or yeast is removed. Even the slightest bit was a problem because it would find its way into the bread, but it wouldn't leave just a corner of the bread; the entire loaf would be affected.

The same is true for Hypocrisy. If you allow it into your life, you are, by default, bringing it into our congregation, and it will most certainly spread.

ILLUSTRATION: Here is what I have observed. Mankind cannot endure hypocrisy for very long within ourselves. We can't keep it going forever. So, what happens is over time, they modify their theology to accommodate their behavior, or they modify their behavior to accommodate their theology.

Why are so many churches liberal today? Because they were hypocritical yesterday. If you hate liberalism, you must also hate hypocrisy. One grows from the other.

The Potential of Hypocrisy...

The Propagation of Hypocrisy...

3. The Preventative of 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.](#)

There is something about human nature that guards our privacy very carefully.

ILLUSTRATION: Remember when Adam and Eve sinned? They sowed fig leaves together and hoped God wouldn't notice. That was the first sin of hypocrisy, by the way. When God came into the Garden, what did they do? They hid themselves. That was the second expression of hypocrisy.

By the time the Pharisees came along - those little fig leaves had evolved into long robes and broad phylacteries, loud prayers in the marketplace place, and chief seats among the people, but the concept was the same. Cover our sin and hope nobody notices.

We get the idea that if we can fool others, we just might be able to fool the Omniscient God of the Universe. How foolish!

Well, God loves you too much to let you get away with it.

1. **Sometimes God Exposes Our Sin in Life** - EX: DAVID AND BATHSHEBA
2. **Sometimes, God Brings Our Accomplices to Repentance** - EX: In my previous church, an affair was brewing between a man and a woman from another state. No one knew about it. The hand of God came heavy upon the woman; she was hospitalized with a deep depression. Her pastor visited her, and she confessed everything. The next call was to the guy in my church and he said, "You have 24 hours to tell your wife or I will tell her for you".
3. **Sometimes, God Turns it Around On Us, People Know, and We are the Fooled Ones** - EX: I can't tell you how many young men have come for counseling because they stumbled across their dad's history that he thought he deleted.

But Moses said it - Be certain, your sins will find you out.

ILLUSTRATION: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle of Sherlock Holmes fame used to playfully tell how he sent a telegram to each of his twelve friends, all men of great virtue, reputation, and considerable position in society. The message simply said: "Flee at once, all is discovered." Within twenty-four hours, Doyle says, all twelve had left the country! This is playful but penetrating humor, as some uneasy smiles may attest. ¹

4. **Sometimes, God Waits till the Judgement -**

Now, please pay attention. I want to teach you something that is crystal clear but rarely taught in church. It is a paradoxical truth. At first glance, it is a contradiction, but in actuality, it is a paradox.

ILLUSTRATION: The Law on None Contradiction States that contradictory propositions cannot both be true in the same sense at the same time and in the same way.

Several principles in the Bible appear to contradict but do not.

EX: The Trinity, for Example - seems to contradict ONE GOD in the THREE PERSONS. How can both of those things be true? Well, the proper understanding is that God is ONE IN ESSENCE but THREE IN PERSON. It would be a contradiction if we said God

is ONE IN ESSENCE and simultaneously THREE IN ESSENCE. Or that God was THREE IN PERSON and at the same time and in the same way ONE IN PERSON.

But the Doctrine of the Trinity states that there is ONE GOD in ESSENCE and that one God eternally exists in three Persons: Father, Son, and Spirit.

WELL, something similar takes place when we study how God deals with our sins.

1. On one hand, we have read all of these verses that seem to say our sin is completely eradicated.

Micah 7:19 (ESV)

19 ... You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

Psalms 103:12 (ESV)

12 as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

Isaiah 43:25 (ESV)

25 "I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.

Hebrews 8:12 (ESV)

12 For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more."

2. On the other hand, there are verses throughout the Bible that seem to say we will have to give an account for those sins one day.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 (ESV)

14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

Matthew 12:36–37 (ESV)

36 I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, 37 for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

Matthew 16:27 (ESV)

27 For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.

2 Corinthians 5:10 (ESV)

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

Romans 2:6 (ESV) 6 He will render to each one according to his works:

NOW, Which is it? Does he forget or sins? Or will we give an account one day?

Well, in one sense, if we repent and confess our sins - they are forgotten and forgiven, we will never again suffer because of them.

In another sense, the very nature of God's Omniscience eliminates the possibility of forgetting.

ILLUSTRATION: King David's sin with Bathsheba for example. He repented of that sin and was forgiven of that sin. But it is literally in the Bible. God knows it happened. Yet, God has declared He will not remember that sin AGAINST David at the Judgement.

A Good text to help us understand it is **1 Corinthians 3:10–15 (ESV)**

1 Corinthians 3:10–15 (ESV)

¹⁰ According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. ¹¹ For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw — ¹³ each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. ¹⁴ If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

CONCLUSION/INVITATION: The Kryptonite for Hypocrisy is a belief that nothing will be hidden for very long. Our sins will find us out. The only comfort is knowing when our sins are manifest, so will be our repentance.

By the way, as we prepare for the Lord's Supper, we are called to repent of all hypocrisy, to judge ourselves.

Howard Hendricks, *"There is no fear judgment for the man who judges himself"*

Christ did not come to rub your sin in, He came to rub it out.