

## “The Fear of the Son of Man” Luke 12:1-21

Please Stand and Open your Bibles to Acts 1:4-8

Before we finish today you will see why I had you start by reading that passage. But let us first remember the context of this passage of Luke

Luke 9:51

Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem...

From this point to Luke 19 we are in what is known as the “Travel Discourses”. If you have a red-letter Bible just flip through the pages between where we are today and chapter 19 and it is almost all red. Most of this teaching is related to the fact that the Pharisees and religious leaders have rejected Him. Many of these discourses and parables are unique to Luke and worthy of our attention as we spend the rest of this year going through them. Today we have come to this...

Luke 12:1

In the meantime...

Before we move on, we need to remind ourselves “In the meantime of what?”

Luke 11:53-54

And as He said these things to them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to assail Him vehemently, and to cross-examine Him about many things, lying in wait for Him, and seeking to catch Him in something He might say, that they might accuse Him.

So, during this time that the religious leaders, who have poisoned the minds of people to think that the wonderful works of Jesus were done by Satan, were set to get Him and destroy Him if they could. And we learn that our lesson today and the rest of this chapter started at a particular event...

Luke 12:1

In the meantime, when an innumerable multitude of people had gathered together, so that they trampled one another...

I don't know if you have ever been lost in a crowd that was so big there was not enough room for everyone, and they are all wanting to get to the front to see what everybody is there for. I remember being a kid in San Francisco when the 49ers won Super Bowl 16. Everywhere you went to celebrate you were at

risk of being trampled! You hear about this in other countries during soccer celebrations. Those guys are nuts! But the crowd was so big that they all were trying to get close to Jesus. Think about that for a second. Again, we are hearing that many young people are going to church now because of Charlie Kirk. But are they going just because of him or to get close to Jesus? Only time will tell but do we see crowds gathering at our church like this? Just a thought, let's move on...

Luke 12:1

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."

Now in the midst of the huge crowd Jesus is now going to begin a discourse to His disciples. Even though this is spoken to them it is meant for the crowds too. They are trampling one another to hear, and so Jesus is building on the rejection of the Pharisees by a warning. We will see a few of these today and we need to take them to heart. The first one here is of the "Leaven" of the Pharisees. Leaven in the scriptures is always used in the negative and is often used to describe sin. Here Jesus described it as Hypocrisy. This is not the first time Jesus has taught this to them. After the feeding of the Four Thousand

they were on a boat and Jesus said this to them and they thought it was because they forgot to take bread with them.

Matthew 16:11-12

“How is it you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread?—but to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” 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.”

And what is that doctrine? Hypocrisy! What does that mean? Playing a part. Pretending to be something that you're not. This is what they taught. That in order to be right before God you had to do things that they were not willing to do. Do you know that more is caught than taught? There are parents out there with kids and they can see first-hand they got a sin nature. So, what do they do? Drop them off to church while they go have coffee and figure we can fix the problem. But do you really expect kids to put their trust in something you won't? When you put a standard on someone else, but you won't keep it guess what? You're a Hypocrite!

You can fool yourself and maybe others, but you will not fool God...

## Luke 12:2-3

...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.

For some of you that might be a scary thought. I know for me it could be. But I am glad that my past life has been washed by the blood of Christ and those things I did in secret are now hidden in Jesus and forever washed away. But then again there are those thoughts we still struggle with that we don't want people to know. We need to remember that He is speaking about the phony Pharisees and not the true followers of the Messiah. I am actually comforted that Jesus sees my inner struggles and knows my inner thoughts. Because now He turns to talk about you and I that have placed our faith and trust in Him...

## Luke 12:4-5

“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!”

I don't think it's an accident that that we have come to this scripture at a time like this. People are now killing professing Christians in America! It won't matter if you are born again or not, they are targeting anyone that even names the name of Jesus. 2 Pics and 2 videos. \*

I find it interesting that the people most vocal about Jesus in public are those that are only nominal in their faith at best. This is the point that Jesus is making. Don't fear those people and in the context the religious leaders that threatened them if they followed Jesus. Notice He calls you, His friend?

John 15:13-15

Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

Jesus then tells them Who they should fear. This is a general statement that reflects two types of fear. The one is if you do not know Jesus, yes you should fear that day that you would

have to face God on Judgment Day. The other is reverential fear that is one of respect as reflected in His next statement...

Luke 12:6-7

“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.”

You are not to fear those that can take your life or the after life as Jesus has provided you the way to be His friend by His cross. God valued you so much that gave His only Son so you could have life. John 3:16.

Now how does that look in those that are not like the Hypocritical Pharisees?

Luke 12:8-9

“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.”

Now this is not talking about your failure to witness to your co-workers or your neighbors. As we will see in a minute it is

related to when you are confronted with the question. I mean how many of you would really deny that if someone asked you? We are always looking for ways to share our faith, and we read in Acts to start that is what Christians will do. At the time He said this you either confessed Jesus as the Messiah or not. That is how you are saved back then. He hadn't died and rose again yet. But we will see this applied to now in a minute but first something we touched on a few weeks ago...

Luke 12:10

“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.”

Remember this is hard to apply now as we are not walking with Jesus before the crucifixion. But let's remember the work of the Holy Spirit today. Convicts-Leads-Indwells. This leads us to the application...

Luke 12:11-12

“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.”



It is important that this statement is found here as we know it is repeated during the Olivet Discourse for those in the Tribulation that get saved. But here applies to you and me.

I want to deal quickly before we finish today with our perspective on this as it applies to those that say you can be a born-again Christian and still reject Christ. I have heard J.B. Hixon of “Not by Works” say you could be a 33% Mason and be a Christian. He is so liberal in this thought that he even believes that there were those that drowned in the flood that were justified by faith. And even Andy Woods, who I love and highly recommend says that non confessing folks can be saved. He uses Nicodemus and others who believed in Jesus but did not confess Him in fear of the religious leaders as His proof text. What’s the problem with that? Think about it, we just read it to start, what were they lacking before the cross?

Acts 1:8

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses (Lit. Martyrs!) to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

If what they say is true then we owe a huge apology to the Christians of the first 300 years of the church. Maybe they

should write a letter to Erika Kirk and say they are sorry, and if Charlie could have just kept his mouth shut he would still be with us. But it's all about awards Pastor don't you know! No, it's all about Jesus! It is the Spirit that gives us the power not our convictions. And just think if unredeemed Catholics will stand up for Jesus how much will you that are filled with His Spirit! Don't fear and walk with Him. Don't fear the nuts out there. Don't fear the tyranny that is coming. Don't fear the camps or the chopping block as God will give you the same strength as many testimonies of the brothers and sisters out there. \* Think about it and it is a true statement going around...

Yes, we are! Now we are going to look at the second warning in Luke 12...

### The Parable of the Rich Fool Luke 12:13-21

The next warning is that of Covetousness. As he is telling them all this as one of the people in the crowd tells Jesus to force his brother to divide up their inheritance. Notice he doesn't ask. Jesus is presenting Himself as the Messiah and this guy is thinking if that is the case surly, He can solve this problem I have. The man's heart is being revealed by what just came out of his mouth. I want to tell you I have seen it many times. A

parent dies and all the family are right there for each other. Saying nice things and giving condolences to each other. They are in perfect unity at the memorial giving each other compliments crying on each other's shoulders, going out of the way to pass each other Kleenex's. But I tell you, no sooner does the dirt get shoveled on the grave that the true colors of some come out! Give me my inheritance! I can tell who the believers are from the ones that are phony. But this guy only cared about money and saw someone claiming some sort of authority and demands that they do something. Please don't come to me and tell me I have to tell so and so to do such and such. I will just repeat the words of Jesus here. Now I will work to bring reconciliation between people but it not my job to tell you what to do.

Notice the story He shares. A guy that was more worried about his life now than the one to come. Had a great year in business and thinks man all I need to do is invest all of this and live high on the hog the rest of my life. Guess what? The statistic that has us all pegged came before he had a chance to enjoy it. The lesson is what are you living for? We need to be warned of covetousness!

Colossians 3:5

Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Idolatry is anything you put in place of God. The main focus of your life is what you worship. And one day soon, by either the rapture, natural death or by way of Charlie Kirk you will face Jesus one day and what was important to you will be seen for all. Let me leave you with this thought of C.T. Studd...

“Only one life will soon be past, only what’s done for Christ will last”

Give a peek of next lesson and close with the gospel