



"We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ." Col 1:28

Luke 11:53-54

53 When He left there, the scribes and the Pharisees began to be very hostile and to question Him closely on many subjects, 54 plotting against Him to catch Him in something He might say.

“Beware of Hypocrisy”

Luke 12:1-12

April 16, 2023

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“circumstances” – chapter 11 – “Jesus had just served up a “6 course lunch”, not a collaboration of food but a condemnation of character to the Pharisees and lawyers.

“thousands” μυριασ – 10,000 X ???.

- Like a soccer match or rock concert – people stepping or trampling over one another. No sound system. They wanted to hear and see.
- Crowds, numbers never affected Jesus. Was not impressed.
- Jesus’ 1st priority were the disciples who were at varied degrees of spirituality – spectators, scorners, spies, the curious, and true followers.
- Jesus gives a stern warning – “Beware” – watch yourself closely, pay attention to yourself.

“leaven” - a biological agent that reacts to the sugars in bread dough and converts the sugar into carbon dioxide and ethanol.

- When leaven or yeast is put into a batch of dough, it will spread throughout the entire batch.
- In the Bible leaven is used in a figurative sense meaning the permeating power or influence of something.
- It is usually used to describe evil (Mt 16:6, 11, 12, 1 Cor. 5:6-8) but in two instances it is used in a good way (Matt. 13:33, Luke 13:21).

- Jesus warned them to stay clear of 3 evil influences (leaven): Pharisees (legalists), the Sadducees (liberals), and Herod (secularism).

Matt 16:6

6 And Jesus said to them, “Watch out and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”

Mark 8:15

15 And He was giving orders to them, saying, “Watch out! Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.”

“Herod” – Herodian dynasty – government, politics.

“hypocrisy” – pretending to be something on the outside that you are not in the inside. Hypocrites say and do different things in public than they do in private. They put on a front, they wear a “mask.” The goal is to impress.

- The problem is there is no change internally only externally. Because of that hypocrites live a lie.
- Therefore religion = hypocrisy.
- To avoid the leaven, watch your associations: 1. Don’t compromise for the sake of unity. 2. Don’t try to find the lowest common denominator. 3. Be careful what you read and watch.

Ps 1:1

1 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,
Nor stand in the path of sinners,
Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

1 Cor 15:33

33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

2 Tim 3:1,5

1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.
5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

"Be on guard against the pervasive, gradual, imperceptible spread of hypocrisy, which had corrupted the Pharisees."

- Chuck Swindoll

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6 WAYS RELIGIOUS HYPOCRISY FAILS: (recording says 5 – my mistake)

1. Religious hypocrisy fails because what the religious hypocrite hides, will be revealed.

Luke 8:17

17 "For nothing is hidden that will not become evident, nor anything secret that will not be known and come to light.

1 Cor 4:5

5 Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts;

Rev 20:12-13

12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.

- Darkness and privacy will never be enough to prevent what someone says.
- Hypocrisy is destined to fail because eventually God will reveal all things.
- We can only be hypocrites before men, but never before God.

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2. Religious hypocrisy fails because it will result in eternal judgment in hell.

- If someone kills you, that is as far as it goes. Only a temporary result.
- If God kills you, its not over. He also determines your eternal destiny.
- Now that is something to fear!
- We typically fear man more than we fear God.

Ps 111:10

10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;

Prov 1:7

7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge;

"If you please God, it does not matter whom you displease. And if you displease God, it does not matter whom you please." - Steve Lawson

- The religious hypocrite, because he/she is a phony, will be stripped of all pretenses, all fake externals, and all religious attire at the GWTJ. What will be left is a soul that will face eternal damnation.

- Therefore FEAR GOD!

1. Hell is a Place of Consciousness - People in Hell are very aware of what is happening to them. (Luke 16:23, 24)
2. Hell is a Place of Torment and No Rest or Peace at All - There will be no parties in Hell. It will not be fun. (Lk 16:23, 28, Rev 14:11, Rev 20:10)
3. Hell is a Place of Darkness (Matthew 8:12, Jude 1:13)
4. Hell is a Place of Sorrow and Eternal Separation From Loved Ones (Luke 13:28, 2 Sa 22:6)
5. Hell is a Place of Hopelessness with No Way of Escape (Matthew 25:46, Luke 16:26)
6. Hell is a Place of Tormenting Memories (Luke 16:27, 28)
7. Hell is a Place of Unfulfilled Desires (Revelation 22:11)
8. Hell is a Place of Fire (Revelation 20:14-15, Revelation 21:8, Matthew 13:50)
9. Hell is a Place of Worms (Mark 9:48)
10. Hell is a Place of Unanswered Prayers (Luke 16:27-31)
11. Hell is a Place of Everlasting Destruction (2 Thessalonians 1:9; 2 Th 1:8)

In his book "Inferno", Dante depicted hell as a place of torment for sin. Above its gate he imagined a sign that said,
 "Abandon hope, all you who enter here."

Those who feared God more than man –

- Matthew** suffered martyrdom by being slain with a sword in Ethiopia.
- Mark** died at Alexandria, after being cruelly dragged through the streets.
- Luke** was hanged on an olive tree in Greece.
- John** was put into a cauldron of boiling oil, escaped death in a miraculous manner, & afterwards banished to Patmos.
- Peter** was crucified upside down at Rome.
- James the Greater** was beheaded at Jerusalem.
- James the Less** was thrown from a lofty pinnacle of the temple, and then beaten to death with a fuller's club.
- Philip** was hanged up against a pillar at Hierapolis in Phrygia.
- Bartholomew** was flayed alive.
- Andrew** was bound to a cross, where he preached to his persecutors until he died.
- Thomas** was run through with a lance at Coromandel in the East Indies.
- Jude** was shot to death with arrows.
- Matthias** was first stoned, and then beheaded.
- Barnabas** of the Gentiles was stoned to death by the Jews at Salonika.
- Paul** after various tortures and persecutions was at length beheaded at Rome by the Emperor Nero.

As the body of John Knox was being lowered into the grave because of persecution, it was said,
 "Here lies one who feared God so much, that he never feared the face of man."

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3. **Religious hypocrisy fails because it has no value.**
 - Sparrows were cheap food for the poor. 2 for a cent or 5 for 2 cents. Poor would catch them in nets, roast them and eat them.
 - A cent was one-sixteenth of a day's wage, a denarii. It was a copper Roman coin.
 - God will not forget you. He knows each one of us and keeps track of us in the smallest of details – sparrows and hairs.
 - Jesus assures His followers, that in spite of God's ability to cast people into hell, they are not to fear. In the judgment, He will protect you.
 - In the judgment there is no worth, no value to religious hypocrisy.

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4. Religious hypocrisy fails because it denies who Christ is and His finished work on the cross.

- For those who confess Christ, Christ will confess them at the judgment.

Rom 10:9-10

9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

1 John 4:2-3

2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God;

3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist,

Matt 25:31

31 "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne."

- So at the judgment, religious hypocrisy will have failed in their confession of who Christ is and what He has done.

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

5. Religious hypocrisy fails because it blasphemes the Holy Spirit.

- All other sin can be forgiven but not the unpardonable sin against the Holy Spirit.

- **Why?**

1. The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin as an unbeliever. (Jn. 16:8)
2. The Holy Spirit reveals Christ to us. (1 Cor. 12:3)
3. The Holy Spirit brings spiritual birth (Jn. 3)

- The blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is the continual rejection of the work of the Holy Spirit in bringing me to Christ for salvation.

- if you are rejecting the gospel today, then you are in the process of committing the unpardonable sin/blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.

- You cannot know the Father except through the Son and you cannot know the Son except through the Holy Spirit. If you therefore reject the Holy Spirit, you will never know the Son or the Father. That is unforgiveable.

11 "When they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not worry about how or what you are to say;

12 for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."

6. Religious hypocrisy fails because it persecutes true believers.

- Notice who is doing the persecuting here – religion.

- Example: Paul

Acts 22:19

19 "And I said, 'Lord, they themselves understand that in one synagogue after another I used to imprison and beat those who believed in You.'

- The Lord Jesus gives us a wonderful promise here:

- When you are persecuted, the Holy Spirit will give you what to say and the boldness to say it.

- The very Holy Spirit that brought you to Christ, will take up residence in you, and empower you during persecution.

“A number of years ago in Colorado, young people got up in the morning and went to school, expecting it to be just another day. And that day, two teenagers with automatic weapons went into the school in Columbine and began shooting people. And at some point, someone said to one of the female students, “Do you believe in God?” And one of them said, “Yes,” and they shot her dead.”

Application

1. It is possible to live your entire life under the mask of hypocrisy.
2. But your hypocrisy will fail.
3. We dishonor God when we fear man, instead of God.
4. We don't need to be phony hypocrites. We can live transparent lives before God and man. It requires humility and the confession of our sin. We are not perfect.

What does God do when we confess our sin?

- Forgives them all (1 Jn. 1:9).
- Casts them into the sea (Mic. 7:19).
- Takes them away (Isa. 6:7).
- Covers them up (Ps. 32:1).
- Blots them out (Acts 3:19).
- Puts them away (Heb. 9:26).
- Remembers them no more (Heb. 8:12).