

Rediscover Jesus, Part 45: “Beware of Hypocrisy”

Luke 11:53-12:12

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Luke 11:53-12:12 (ESV)

⁵³As he went away from there, the scribes and the Pharisees began to press him hard and to provoke him to speak about many things, ⁵⁴lying in wait for him, to catch him in something he might say.

12 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. ²Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ³Therefore 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.

⁴“I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. ⁵But 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! ⁶Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. ⁷Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.

⁸“And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, ⁹but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God. ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹And 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, ¹²for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”

One Thing

Forsake the sin of hypocrisy by faith in God before it leads you to forsake him.

Overview

Three lessons on hypocrisy from Jesus' teaching:

- 1) Hypocrisy spreads in human hearts and God is not deceived by it (Luke 11:53-12:3)
- 2) Hypocrisy is overcome by the fear and love of God (Luke 12:4-7)

- 3) Hypocrisy, left unconfessed, leads to the unforgivable sin of rejecting God and his forgiveness (Luke 12:8-12)

Life Application

What should we do about our hypocrisy?

- 1) Be humble in asking for accountability.
- 2) Be secure in God's redeeming love for sinners.
- 3) Be bold under pressure to acknowledge Jesus as Lord and Savior.