

PROPER FEAR WITH PROPER FAITH

Luke 12:1–12

MAIN POINT

Reverence God with real faith.

I. Introduction

- A. As he continues to show Theophilus the determination of Christ to go to the cross, Luke also emphasizes the popularity of the traveling Rabbi by once more indicating that He attracted “a crowd of many thousands” who were “trampling on one another.”
- B. Jesus made it a priority to teach His disciples (“He began to say to His disciples *first*”). He poured His life into these young men. They would be the ones who would begin the process of spreading the gospel message after Christ ascended back to the Father.
- C. The teachings recorded here reflect what Christ taught *real faith* looks like. All of His followers reverence God with a real faith.

II. Exposition

A. Concerning Teaching (12:1–3)

- 1. Pharisees — the conservative sect of the religious leaders of the Jewish people
- 2. Leaven — “which is hypocrisy” (greed, wickedness, loving the praise of men, etc.)
- 3. Revealed — nothing that the religious leaders have taught or said will be left unexposed

B. Concerning Judgment (12:4–5)

- 1. Fear of man is a natural reaction for all humans of all ages.
- 2. Those who are opposed to the teachings of Jesus will be antagonistic toward His followers. We should not be surprised (cf. John 15:18–25; 1 John 3:13).
- 3. Take heart! If you are in Christ, then He calls *you* “My friend.” The world may hate you but you are *His friend*.
- 4. Proper fear should not be directed towards the lesser (those who can kill the body) but toward the Greater (He who can cast both body and soul into *Gehenna* [“hell”]).

C. Concerning Provision (12:6–7)

- 1. Five sparrows — very little birds
- 2. “two copper coins” — an hour’s work or less (roughly 1/16th of a denarius, which was one days’ wage)
- 3. The sovereign, omniscient God knows these small birds. How much more will He intimately know and care for humans made in His image! You are far more valuable than five little birds.

D. Concerning Allegiance (12:8–10)

- 1. Confession

- a) Confession — “profession of allegiance”
- b) Those who publicly profess allegiance to Jesus will be claimed by Jesus.
- 2. Rejection
 - a) Deny — “repudiate, disown”
 - b) Those who repudiate Christ will be rejected from entering the habitation of Christ and His angels.
- 3. Blasphemy — ultimate repudiation of God by resisting the call of God’s Spirit to believe the gospel

E. Concerning Examination (12:11–12)

- 1. It should not be surprising when the world sees confessors of Jesus that they examine them (both out of curiosity as well as out of hatred).
- 2. Those who are Christ’s possess the Spirit of God which gives both wisdom and boldness to proclaim the truth of the gospel to the world. Paul asked for prayer regarding such boldness (cf. Eph. 6:18–20).

III. Truths — *What does reverencing God with proper faith look like?*

- A. Pay close attention to what you are taught.
- B. Fear God’s estimation of your life and teaching.
- C. Trust God’s promise of provision and care.
- D. Profess your allegiance to Christ.
- E. Rely upon God’s Holy Spirit.