

LUKE Lesson 32

Five Snares to Beware of While You Wait for the Lord, Part 1 (Luke 12:1-12)

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In Luke chapter 11, Jesus began to face rejection from the religious leaders because He told the truth, and the truth was condemning. Most people still reject Jesus Christ today (Isaiah 53:3) whenever *you* speak the truth from the word of God. The Lord told you in advance that this would happen so that you wouldn't quit witnessing when faced with rejection. As a result of the rejection, in chapter 12, Jesus warns about certain attitudes that will hinder a person from coming to the Lord, following the Lord, or being able to attract others to the Lord.

First Snare: Hypocrisy—Wearing a Religious Mask (Vss 1-3)

Vs 1 Large crowds gathered to hear Jesus teach. In His first warning, He compared hypocrisy to leaven (a corrupting agent that spreads rapidly and thoroughly). Certain doctrines and teachings of religious men can keep a lost person on the road to Hell and do much harm to a Christian's walk.

Hypocrisy: putting on a mask. Are you the same person inside the church as you are outside?

Many religious leaders are wearing a mask (or an entire costume) that hides what they really are. Jesus warned us to not only beware of men who may deceive you by their hypocrisy, but to make sure you also are not a hypocrite. Be consistent in your behavior.

Vs 2 All shall be revealed. You're not getting away with anything (Dan 2:22, Prov 90:8, Eccl 12:14). Hypocrisy is a lie that will be exposed one day at the Judgment Seat. Always be truthful; be you.

Vs 3 A person might think his secrets are safe with the priest in the confessional booth, but Jesus said those secrets shall be heard in the light and proclaimed upon the housetops. The only way to be pardoned from your sins is to confess them directly to the Lord Jesus Christ as a born-again believer (1 Jn 1:9).

Second Snare: The Fear of Man (Vss 4-7)

4-5 We need to distinguish between things that are temporal (this life on earth) and things that are eternal (everlasting life in Heaven and beyond). This will help us to understand that it is more important to fear God and aim to please Him (eternal relationship) rather than man (temporal relationships).

Instead of worrying about **when** you're going to die (and trying hard to stay alive), you ought to worry about **where** you're going when you die. There are only two destinations; Heaven or Hell.

It is certain that you will die (Rom 5:12, 6:23, Ezek 18:4, James 1:15). Therefore, stop trying to prevent it. Instead, spend your time preparing yourself for your destination beyond this life. If you fear God, you won't fear death; you won't fear any man that might kill you.

6-7 Sparrows are common birds worldwide. God cares for every one of them. You're more important than a sparrow. God even cares about the number of hairs on your head (unimportant to us, but important to God).

The fear of God is not about being afraid of a cruel hateful God. He clearly loves and cares for you (1 Pet 5:7). It's about fearing the one who is in charge of the destination of your eternal soul; the One who cares about you.

Don't live your life trying to please and impress and gain the favor of people who don't care about you. If you fear God, you'll treat people right (even if they don't care about you) and God will be pleased.

Third Snare: Unfaithfulness to Jesus Christ (Vss 8-12)

8-9 What you do here on earth now effects what happens to you in Heaven. Jesus doesn't want "secret disciples." He wants you to openly proclaim Him before men. That's what it means to "**confess the Lord Jesus**" (Rom 10:9). We need to pray for boldness to speak about our Lord and Savior (Acts 4:29, Philippians 1:20).

Vs 10 To blaspheme the Holy Ghost has nothing to do with rejecting modern-day tongues. To blaspheme means: *lack of reverence; lack of respect for*. The Holy Ghost is the One who convicts sinners. If a sinner refuses to respond to the drawing of the Holy Ghost, when they die, they will enter into eternity in the torments of Hell—where they shall never be forgiven. A person rejects the Lord Jesus Christ by blaspheming the work of the Holy Ghost, thereby sealing his/her fate for eternity.

11-12 Context is important here. Jesus is NOT saying that you don't need to study the Bible because the Holy Ghost will put words in your mouth whenever you get up to preach. It's not talking about preaching.

Jesus told the people to confess Him before men and don't deny Him (8-9). Then He said this might result in religious or judicial questioning (vs 11); you'll be put on trial. THAT'S when you can trust that the Holy Ghost will help you to CONTINUE to confess Christ and not deny Him; He will "**teach you... what ye ought to say.**" (vs 12). Read Foxe's Book of Martyrs to see this in action.

If you won't confess Jesus today while nobody is threatening you, why do you think you'll confess Him when you're being persecuted or tortured? We need to start proclaiming the name of our Lord Jesus Christ today, or we won't do it when we're faced with an ultimatum.
