

Luke 12:1-12

2/28/21

Danger of False Doctrine

Luke 12:1-5

I. Introduction:

A. False Doctrine

1. A tool of Satan's to blind people to the truth is deceiving them with false doctrine.
2. False doctrine is spread by false teachers who are working hard in the world to deceive people and lead them away from God.
3. False Teachers: four characteristics of a false teacher:
 - (1) – Source of their message
 - a. Their message does not come from the Bible, but from life experiences.
 - b. They teach from human wisdom, not God's word.
 - c. They don't draw truth from scripture, but manipulate scripture to support their errant doctrine.
 - (2) – They are men pleasers.
 - a. They are more concerned with winning man's approval than with God's.
 - b. The apostle Paul warned of this in **2 Timothy 4:3-4**.
 - c. False teachers will say whatever is popular at the moment.
 - (3) – They have a wrong focus.
 - a. False teachers focus more on the here and now rather than eternity.
 - b. They tell people how to have everything wanted now while ignoring the eternal.
 - c. They are more about the temporary things of this life than they are with the eternal.
 - (4) – The result of their teaching
 - a. False teachers lead people to be more worldly rather than being more Godly.
 - b. Those who sit under false teaching are often led away from the gospel & many are never saved. The saved that come under their shadow won't ever grow in faith.
 - c. The truth of God's word produces Christ likeness. Man's teaching = worldliness.

II. Jesus' warning to His disciples (Luke 12:1-3)

A. Beware of the Pharisees.

1. The word "leaven" is used in the Bible to refer to literal yeast.
2. Leaven or yeast was used to make bread rise. However, the word is also used to refer to sin or that which permeates & corrupts as a little yeast in dough permeates the whole.
3. Application: Using the analogy of leaven, Jesus said beware of the false teaching of the Pharisees. Small amount of false doctrine can impact a person's whole heart & mind.
4. A small amount of false doctrine can lead a person away from saving faith in Jesus.

B. Hypocrisy

1. Jesus said the sin and error of the Pharisees was hypocrisy, in essence being insincere.
2. The insincerity of a religious hypocrite can be seen in four characteristics.
 - (1) – Words and actions do not align.
 - a. A hypocrite says one thing and does another.
 - b. They declare their faith & righteousness, but their lifestyle is unrighteousness.

- (2) – Loves to be seen of men
 - a. Desiring the accolades of others, virtue or good deeds are performed for the sight.
 - b. They act right when others are watching, but alone the hypocrite has no integrity.
 - (3) – Neglects the inward man
 - a. The religious hypocrite focuses on outward religious actions without considering the inward motive. A hypocrite's religion is all outward show.
 - (4) – Judgmental and condemning
 - a. Hypocrites condemn others for the same sins they allow in their own lives.
3. Pharisees: Jesus applied this term, hypocrisy, to the Pharisees. (**Matthew 23:2-7**)

III. All will be exposed. (Luke 12:2-3)

A. Jesus warns regarding religious hypocrisy.

1. There is coming a day when all that is false will be revealed for what it is.
2. When Jesus returns & judgment day arrives, all covered by a veil shall be removed.
3. Those who were religious actors will be revealed. (**Ecclesiastes 12:14**)
4. Application: God sees the heart, He is not fooled by man's deceptive actions.
5. The free pardon of sin & eternal life is received when we confess our sin to God, by faith ask Him to forgive & saved us. Then religious works that follow will be genuine.

IV. An attitude of fearlessness (Luke 12:4-5)

A. Human power is limited.

1. The power of one man over another is limited to this life.
2. It is possible for man to destroy the body, but man cannot touch the soul.
3. Jesus said we shouldn't be afraid of them because their power is limited to here & now
4. Prophetic: What Jesus said about being fearless was prophetic.
5. Jesus knew they would persecute those following Him & in < 50 years Christians were being hunted down and killed because of their faith.
 - a. Stephen was stoned to death, the first martyr of the church.
 - b. Peter was crucified upside down and Paul was beheaded in Rome.
6. Example: An examples of fearless faith comes from the O.T. in the Book of Daniel.
 - a. In Daniel 3 Nebuchadnezzar commanded all his leadership to bow down & worship a large image he had built on the plain of Dura.
 - b. Everyone bowed with the exception of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego.
 - c. God's law forbid Jews from worshipping an idol. Nebuchadnezzar gave them one last chance to bow or be thrown into fiery furnace & burned alive. (**Daniel 3:16-18**)
 - d. They declared God's deliverance in one of two ways:
 - (1) – They would be burned up.- If God allowed them to die physically, their souls would be with God instantly. Nebuchadnezzar would have no more power over them
 - (2) – God could do a miracle.- God chose to do a miracle & protected them in the fire.
7. Application: We are to have the same fearless assurance as we serve God in this life.

B. Fear God

1. Then Jesus said all men should fear God.
2. God has the power to take physical life & condemn the soul to the eternal lake of fire.
3. God is the one we should be concerned with pleasing.
4. God is the one we should honor and obey, not man.