

Luke's Gospel: Son of Man, Seeker of Men.

“Authentic Faith”

Luke 12:1-12 (NKJV); Beware of Hypocrisy ¹ In the meantime, when an innumerable multitude of people had gathered together, so that they trampled one another, He began to say to His disciples first of all, “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.” ² For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known. ³ Therefore whatever you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops.

Jesus Teaches the Fear of God ⁴ “And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. ⁵ But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!

⁶ “Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. ⁷ But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Confess Christ Before Men ⁸ “Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. ⁹ But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.

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

¹¹ “Now when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. ¹² For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”

Authentic Faith. 4 Marks of True Religion:

1. Authentic faith is t_____ : It is lived out in the open without any hidden secrets (v. 1-3).

- Jesus was surrounded by a crowd of many people.
- The leaven of the Pharisees-represents the corruption of hypocrisy that spreads quickly.

Scripture Insight: “Leaven here represents the presence of corruption. Unleavened bread is what the Jews ate at Passover (see [Ex. 12:14-20](#)). The corruption in view here is

hypocrisy. Practicing hypocrisy is senseless because eventually all deeds—both good and evil—will be exposed."¹

The contrast of the two types of spiritual leaders:

Jesus had nothing to hide while the Pharisees had much to hide.

Jesus had no sin while the Pharisees were still in their sin.

Jesus was authentic while the Pharisees were hypocritical.

Jesus was walking in God's light while the Pharisees were walking in their own light.

- Whatever you cover, God uncovers. Whatever you uncover, God covers.

Proverbs 28:13; He who covers his sins will not prosper,
But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

I John 1:9; If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Hebrews 4:13 (NIV); Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

2. **Authentic faith is fear _____: He who truly fears God truly needs to fear nothing else (v. 4-7, 11-12)!**

- You have just two options in your faith: You can fear God, or you can fear people.

Scripture Insight: "Jesus mentioned "fear" five times in these verses, so He is teaching us that a basic cause of hypocrisy is *the fear of man*. When we are afraid of what others may say about us or do to us, then we try to impress them in order to gain their approval. If necessary, we will even lie to accomplish our purposes, and this is hypocrisy. Unfortunately, many of the scribes and Pharisees were more concerned about reputation than character, what people *thought* about them than what God *knew* about them. The fear of man always brings a snare (Prov. 29:25), and Jesus wanted His disciples to avoid that snare."²

- If you fear God, you don't have to fear anyone or anything else.
- God is a God of love, but He is also a God of justice.

¹ Quote from NKJV Study Bible.

² Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [The Bible exposition commentary](#) (Vol. 1, p. 219). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

- Hell is a reality that we should think deeply about.

Scripture Insight: The Greek word "Gehenna" is used in a number of NT texts to designate the fiery place for punishment of sinners and is often translated "hell" or "the fires of hell" (Mt 5:22, 29, 30; 10:28; 18:9; 23:15, 33; Mk 9:43, 45, 47; Jas 3:6). It is usually used in connection with the final judgment and often has the suggestion that the punishment spoken of is eternal. Gehenna is derived by transliteration from the Hebrew of the OT, "valley of Hinnom" or the "valley of the son of Hinnom," a ravine on the south side of Jerusalem. This valley was the center of idolatrous worship in which children were burned by fire as an offering to the heathen god Molech (2 Chr 28:3; 33:6). In the time of Josiah it became a place of abomination, polluted by dead men's bones and the filth of Jerusalem (2 Kgs 23:10-14) and by garbage and rubbish dumped there. *A fire burned continuously in this valley. It thus became a symbol of the unending fires of hell where the lost are consumed in torment. It was a symbol of judgment to be imposed on the idolatrous and disobedient* (Jer 7:31-34; 32:35).³

- If you fear people, you will often fear everything else.

3. Authentic faith is s_____ : I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (v. 8-9).

- If you talk about Jesus to men, Jesus will talk about you to angels.
- If you deny Jesus before earthly men, Jesus will deny you before heavenly angels.

Scripture Insight: "Acknowledgment of Christ on Earth results in acknowledgment by Him in heaven. The reverse is also true."⁴

4. Authentic faith is T_____ : It honors the triune God (v. 5, 8-10).

- Notice the Presence of the Trinity in this passage:
 - i. Authentic faith **f**_____ God the Father (v. 5).
 - ii. Authentic faith **p**_____ Jesus the Son (v. 8-9).
 - iii. Authentic faith **is g**_____ by the Holy Spirit (v. 11-12).
- We should honor the Father because He is p_____ (v. 5).
- We should honor the Son because He is our a_____ to God (v. 8-10a).

³ Quote from Powell, R. E. (1988). [Hell](#). In *Baker encyclopedia of the Bible* (Vol. 1, p. 954). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.

⁴ Quote from New Spirit-Filled Life Bible.

- We should honor the Holy Spirit because He is our G_____ (v. 10b-12).

Christ Connection: Jesus is the only way to authentic faith. One cannot have true faith without a true relationship with God through Jesus Christ (John 14:6).

Sermon in a Sentence: Authentic faith is one that honors God by living in bold confidence and trusting obedience.



Action Steps:

- 1) **Identify the lies** that I currently believe and replace the lies with God's truth.
- 2) **Make a decision** to live in the fear of God instead of the fear of man.
- 3) **Surrender**--Fully surrender every area of my life. This is having a Romans 12:1-2 experience.

Make a decision this week? Please let us know on your Connection Card.



Preview for 1st Wednesday

Celebration: Join us this Wednesday at 6:15 for a special worship event led by Brooklyn Tabernacle singer Joe Perry who will be singing with our 9:30 worship team.