

Beware Of Hypocrisy

Luke 12:1-7

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / March 13, 2022

Luke 12:1-7 “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. ² Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ³ Therefore 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. ⁵ But 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! ⁶ Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. ⁷ Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.”

I. You Need to Steer Clear of Hypocrites!

Luke 12:1 “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...**’”

Jesus is addressing the religious hypocrisy of the Pharisees. They claim to believe one thing, but act contrary to their belief.

4 Common Characteristics of Hypocrites

1. Hypocrites **focus on their outward appearance** in order to hide who they truly are.

Mark 7:6 “And He said to them, ‘Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, “**This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me...**”’”

The Greek word for “hypocrite” is a term that refers to an actor playing a role on a stage (amoral). In the New Testament, however, it’s used exclusively to refer to someone who claims to speak for God, but does not.

2. Hypocrites **respond maliciously** to those who expose them for what they truly are.

Matthew 22:18 “ But Jesus, **aware of their malice**, said, ‘Why put Me to the test, you hypocrites?’”

3. Hypocrites **lack discernment**.

Luke 12:56 “You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, **but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?**”

4. Hypocrites **lack compassion**.

Luke 13:13-14 “And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and she glorified God. ¹⁴ But the ruler of the synagogue, **indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath...**”

II. You Need to Guard Against Hypocrisy in Your Own Life!

Luke 12:2-3 “Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ³ Therefore 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.”

The second type of hypocrisy is **judgmental hypocrisy**. This is when we look down on others despite the fact that we are also flawed.

Matthew 7:3-5 “Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴ Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? ⁵ **You hypocrite**, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.”

III. You Need to Fear God More Than People!

Luke 12:4-5 “I tell you, My friends, **do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do.** ⁵ But 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!**”

1. God should be feared because **He sees everything.**
2. God should be feared because **He knows everything.**
3. God should be feared because **He can send hypocrites to hell.**

Hebrews 10:31 “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

IV. The Same Reasons Others Fear God Are the Reasons We Love Him!

Luke 12:6-7 “Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. ⁷ Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. **Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.**”

1. Christians love that **God always sees us and watches over us!**
2. Christians love that **God knows all things!**
3. Christians love that **God controls eternity, and we’re secure in Him!**

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:

1. When/How have you seen hypocrisy in your own life?
2. What impact does it have when a Christian is found to have been a hypocrite? When have you seen this happen, or experienced it first-hand?
3. If you were found to be a hypocrite today, who would be impacted?
4. Why do you think people fear people more than they fear God?
5. Read Psalm 139:7-10. How do you feel about the fact that God is all-powerful (omnipotent) and all-present (omnipresent)? Do you find that to be comforting or concerning? Why?