

Lesson 37

Freedom From Fear

Icebreaker:

Name some fears you have.

Introduction:

Jesus has just finished telling the disciples to beware of the teaching of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. He had recognized their hypocrisy when they blasphemed against the Holy Spirit. While the Pharisees appeared righteous on the outside they were in fact devoid of the Holy Spirit. They had been hiding their evil, unrepentant and unbelieving hearts behind the mask of religion. Jesus went on to say that everything a person attempts to **hide**, whether hypocrisy or anything else would be revealed. And to that he added that everything a person ever **said**, including what was said as a secret or in the heart would be revealed as well.

Group Discussion:

1. Why do people try to hide what they have done or said?
2. What things have you done or are still doing that you are attempting to hide from others?
3. What evil or derogatory things have you said either secretly to others or in your heart?
4. Take a few minutes and compile a list.
5. Then take your list and publicly confess it to the Lord Jesus Christ. For it is written, *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.”* (1 John 1:9-10)

Reading The Scripture:

Jesus Teaches His Disciples

Luke 12:1-12

(Gospels forged together into one seamless story, in collaboration with New American Standard Bible,
authored by Michael Gibson, Founder of Spirit & Truth, dba Key 2 Changes: “Follow Me: A Message from God”, a Journey with Jesus)

Under these circumstances, after so many thousands of the multitude had gathered together that they were stepping on one another, He began saying to His disciples first of all, “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. But there is nothing covered up that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. Accordingly, whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in the inner rooms shall be proclaimed upon the housetops. 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. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who after He has killed has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him! Are not five sparrows sold for two cents? And yet not one of them is forgotten before God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear; you are of more value than many sparrows. And I say to you, everyone who confesses Me before men, the Son of Man shall confess him also before the angels of God; but he who denies Me before men shall be denied before the angels of God. And everyone who will speak a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him. And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not become anxious about how or what you should speak in your defense, or what you should say; for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”

Blasphemes - “but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.” (Lk 12:10) - (STRONG’S NO. 988 – **blasphémia**): “switches” right for wrong (wrong for right), i.e. calls what God *disapproves*, “right” which “exchanges the truth of God for a lie” (Ro 1:25 - “because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie”; Isa 5:20 - “you who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness,”). Literally, slow (sluggish) to call something *good* (that *really is good*) – and slow to identify what is truly bad (that really is evil). (THAYER’S GREEK LEXICON): *a.* universally, slander, detraction, speech injurious to another’s good name.

The Commands:

1. Do not be afraid of those who kill the body.
2. Fear the One, who after He has killed has authority to cast into hell.
3. Yes, I tell you, fear Him.
4. Do not fear
5. Do not become anxious about how or what you should speak in your defense, or what you should say.

The Lesson:

When Jesus told the disciples that everything a person says or does will be revealed it was a frightening prospect. For who is without sin and not ashamed of some aspect of his life? Fortunately for all of His disciples, then and now, Jesus initiated this lesson by calling His disciples¹ ... friends. This is a powerful and reassuring message for them. For when an individual voluntarily enters a relationship with another as a friend, he has committed himself to oversee the welfare of his friend. And for Jesus, the Son of the Living God, to call you a friend is indeed a supreme blessing.

Group Discussion:

List some traits of a true friend.

The Lesson Continued:

Jesus knows that His disciples will face persecution and death because of the message they will bring so he prepares them for this eventuality. Since death is a natural fear of man, Jesus uses it to present some truths to the disciples. First, He commands them **not** to **fear man**, even their enemies, because their authority and power are limited to the killing of the body. Instead they are to **fear God** alone, as He has both the authority and power to kill the body and to cast into hell.

Next Jesus reassures the disciples by telling them not to fear because they are of great value to God. He gives them two reasons why they should not be fearful. **1)** They believe in and confess Him and **2)** they have not blasphemed against the Holy Spirit. While this is assurance for the disciples, it gives cause to fear in others who are not following Him.

Listen to what Jesus had to say about why people should have reason to fear God.

- 1) *And I say to you, everyone who **confesses** Me before men, the Son of Man will **confess** him also before the angels of God; but he who **denies** Me before men will be **denied** before the angels of God. In his second epistle to Timothy, the Apostle Paul talked about this reason when he wrote: *It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we **deny** him, he also will **deny** us: If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.* (2 Tim 2:11-13)*

¹ A disciple is one who learns from his teacher and then implements what he is instructed to do. “You are My friends if you do what I command you.” (John 15:14)

2) *And everyone who **blasphemes (speaks a word)** against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but he who **blasphemes (speaks a word)** against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him. The apostle Paul also wrote Timothy concerning the time when he blasphemed against Jesus, the Son of Man. *Who² was before a **blasphemer**, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I **obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.** And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. (1 Timothy 1:13-15)**

From the Scripture it appears that there are two reasons that God can cast a man into hell: **1)** Willfully denying that Jesus is the Christ and **2)** willfully speaking against the Holy Spirit. In other words calling Him who is good ... evil or calling him who is evil ... good.

At the beginning of the lesson Jesus had told the disciples they were not to fear men And He concludes the lesson by telling them that when men bring them before rulers and authorities they are not to be concerned about defending themselves. Because the Holy Spirit will give them what to say when they need to speak.

The Point Of The Lesson:

Jesus followers have no reason to be afraid of God.

Application:

Since everything you say or do will be revealed, confess (reveal) those things, which you are ashamed of, to Jesus now so they can be covered by His blood.

² The Apostle Paul.