

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE



*glimpses
of glory*

MESSAGE: NATHAN BAIRD

MUSIC: SHAWN HOELSCH

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Gospel Boldness Grows from Valuing God's Favor Above Human Disfavor Luke 12:1-12

Jesus cautions the disciples against the reputation-policing culture of his critics.

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. 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.*

Jesus presents two facts to give his disciples a fear-free perspective.

1. Even the harshest human judgements are of no consequence in eternity.

Luke 12:4 *“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!*

Acts 2:23 *this Jesus... you crucified... 24 God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.*

2. The only One whose judgment matters is your loving Father who delights in his Son.

Luke 12:6 *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.*

Romans 8:31 *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.*

Jesus warns of the dire consequence for caving in to misplaced fear.

1. Public shaming & rejection in front of the highest court of opinion

Luke 12:8 *“And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, 9 but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God.*

Acts 4:18 *So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, 20 for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.”*

2. **Condemnation for any who assassinate the Holy Spirit's reputation to save their own**

Luke 12:10 *And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.*

Matthew 21:25 *The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' 26 But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." 27 So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.*

Finally, Jesus promises divine aid to face hostile humans: the Holy Spirit's personal tutelage.

Luke 12:11 *And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, 12 for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."*

Encouragement from a Restored Denier of Jesus

1 Peter 3:14...*Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, 15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, 16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.*

1. Set aside King Jesus as your highest authority.
2. Think through in advance what God has done in Christ to give you hope
3. Accept that your reputation may be wrongly smeared in the court of human opinion
4. Determine to conduct yourself in a way that will commend you before Heaven's court

Reflection & Discussion

1. Which of Jesus's words do you find most helpful in facing ridicule of others in regard to your allegiance to King Jesus?
2. Walk yourself through Peter's training method in 1 Peter 3:14-16. Which of the four steps do you need to focus on as you train to be like Jesus?

SONGS

"I AM SET FREE"

"GOD SO LOVED"

"GOODNESS OF GOD"

"JESUS PAID IT ALL"

Altamont Music Pastor: Shawn Hoelsch (shawn@vbc.online)

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$ 23,482.96

WEEKLY NEED: \$ 36,985.00

Y-T-D GIVING: \$1,281,412.06

Y-T-D GENERAL NEED: \$1,442,415.00

ALTAMONT CAMPUS EXPANSION FUND:
(Last Entry 09/25) \$ 95,184.74

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