Sermon Notes for October 1, 2017

Whom Will We Fear?

Luke 12:1-12

Introduction

One of the temptations in ministry is the desire to please people.

That is the temptation Jesus addresses in this passage, only Jesus puts it even stronger. It’s not whom will you please, but whom will you fear.

Two things are happening in Jesus’ ministry:

• Growing opposition from the religious leaders.
• Growing popularity among the people.

Jesus turns to the disciples to instruct them.

Whom will we fear?

I. Be on your guard against hypocrisy. Verses 1-3

Just like yeast works its way through a batch of dough, so the teaching of the Pharisees can infect a whole group.

Be assured, there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed.

We will all stand before God to give an account for our life. II Corinthians 5:10

• For the believer it is not about condemnation. It is about stewardship. I Corinthians 3:10
• For the unbeliever, it will be the Great White Throne Judgment. Revelation 20:11-15

Be on your guard against hypocrisy.

• It is not hypocritical to admit our sin.
• It is hypocritical to pretend to be something we are not.

II. Fear God and not man. Verses 4-7

Jesus knows that the disciples will be persecuted.

“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.” II Timothy 3:12

Jesus doesn’t promise that they won’t be killed.
Jesus says, “Don’t be afraid of those who can kill the body and do no more. Be afraid of the one who can kill the body and throw you into hell.”

Gehenna is the valley of Hinnom. It was a garbage dump. Fire burned continuously.

Never forget how much God loves you.
You are worth more than many sparrows.
Fear the Lord, not man.

III. Stand firm with Jesus. Verses 8-12

Will we confess Jesus as our Lord and Savior or will we deny him?
The consequences are serious. It is the difference between heaven and hell.

What is the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit?
- It is to attribute the work of Jesus to Satan.
- It is to reject the Holy Spirit’s witness to Jesus.

Two examples in Scripture are:
- Paul – I Timothy 1:12-16

What made the difference?
The presence and power of the Holy Spirit in their life.
For the believer, The Holy Spirit’s presence in our life gives us boldness and wisdom.

Conclusion
The 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation
- October 31, 1517 – Luther’s 95 Theses nailed on the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg.
- Martin Luther’s trial at the Diet of Worms.

“Unless I am convinced by Scripture and plain reason – I do not accept the authority of popes and councils, for they have contradicted each other – my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. God help me. Amen.”

“Luther’s massive fear of God freed him from the smaller fear of men!” Kent Hughes

May the Word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit give us that same boldness.