



Today's Message

Date: March 14, 2021
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: ***Fear God Alone***

Text: Luke 12:1–12 (ESV)

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.

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.

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. 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. 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.”

Introduction: Jesus was in the middle of conflict with the religious leaders of Israel who were lying in wait for opportunity to destroy him. The crowds began to multiply as word of the controversy spread. Before addressing the crowds, Jesus warned his disciples to withstand the pressures that would come from the crowd.

Today's take-home truth: Resist the opinions of the crowd; instead, fear God and trust his Son, Jesus.

I. Do not allow popular opinion to influence you. 1-3

- A. The quest for popularity spreads hypocrisy . . . 1
- B. but God will unmask every hypocrite. 2-3

II. Instead, fear God rather than man. 4-7

- A. Do not fear man whose wrath is limited. 4
- B. Fear God whose wrath is eternal. 5-7
 - 1. God has authority over death and hell. 5
 - 2. And God knows all. 6-7a
 - 3. But those who fear him, need fear nothing else. 7b

III. Follow Jesus, regardless of what others think. 8-12

- A. Confess Jesus for your eternal wellbeing. 8-9
- B. Confess Jesus regardless of the blasphemy of others. 10
- C. Confess Jesus depending on the Spirit's help. 11-12