

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #185

(Note: You can read the online Newspaper edition of this post [here](#).)

The Later Judean Ministry: Jesus Warns His Disciples Not to Emulate the Pharisees

Jesus Repeats His Warning to Beware of the Pharisee's Hypocrisy

Luke 12.1-7

1 Meanwhile, when a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so that they were trampling on one another, Jesus began to speak first to his disciples, saying:

"I command you to constantly guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

2 "There is nothing that a person thinks is safely concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known.3 What you have spoken secretly in the dark will be heard clearly in the daylight, and what you have secretly whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the rooftops.

4 "I command you, my friends, not to be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. 5 But I will show you whom you should fear: you must all fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I command you, fear him.

6 "Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. 7 Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

CONTEXT DIGEST	
Location	Speaking to a Crowd of Thousands, Somewhere in Judea
Timeline	October or November (Months 33, 34)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VI: Jesus' Later Judean Ministry
	D. Jesus Minister in Judea and Trains His Disciples
	2. Jesus Warns His Disciples Not to Emulate the Pharisees
Title	vi. Jesus Repeats His Warning to Beware of the Pharisee's Hypocrisy

COMMENT:

We see in today's reading that large crowds continued to gather around Jesus in Judea. Luke said they were "many thousands." Crowds like these had assembled during John the Immerser's ministry three years earlier. Yet he had performed no miracles. The people of Judea had been hearing about the miracles Jesus had been performing in Galilee for the last two years, and they had all heard the story of the healing of the blind man at the Feast of Tabernacles. No wonder that Judeans were now flocking to Jesus.

Luke ended the extended section (LK 11.14 to 12.7) of Jesus' warnings to his disciples to be careful not to emulate the negative example of the Pharisees by once again pointing out their major sin: hypocrisy.

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The problem with hypocrisy is that it is a temporary form of self-deception. Jesus reminded his disciples that at the final judgement (and sometimes in this life), the truth of what we have really felt and thought on the inside will be revealed before God, the angels, and all people. No one can fool God, or hide anything from him.

It is far better to repent in this life of our hypocrisy and receive the forgiveness from God that will guarantee that those sins never come up at the final judgement.

For this reason, Jesus commanded us to fear God, not man. It is God before whom we stand or fall. He desires us all to stand before him in the grace and righteousness of his Son. He loves us enough to number, and keep track of the current status of every hair on our head. The God who knows us that well obviously also knows every thought of our hearts. How much better it is to acknowledge our sins to him, rather than cover them up in the futility of hypocrisy.

The omniscience of God regarding every minutia of our lives is either something fearful in the sense of terrifying, or something that causes us to reverence him with the greatest honor of which we are capable. His love causes us to face our sins in the resources of his grace. A contrite heart is evidence of our reverence for him. Refusal to face our sins in the light of his truth is to embrace certain destruction in the end.

Hypocrisy is a dangerous thing indeed.

APPLICATION:

Five out of the last six readings have concentrated on the terrible example of the Pharisees, which was all rooted in hypocrisy. Jesus was deeply concerned that this spiritual virus might infect his own disciples.

What is the answer for hypocrisy? The truth spoken in love by God, straight into our hearts.

Only the Holy Spirit can illuminate our hearts and minds with the truth of the the Word in a way that causes us to embrace the reality of our sin. The Holy Spirit also reminds us of what Jesus has done for us to forgive us, cleanse us, and give us the power to move on in joy and peace.

God is longing to take us past hypocrisy into freedom and fulness in Jesus.

Is there something you need to do to flee from hypocrisy? How will you lean on Jesus' grace as you do so?