

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #186

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

Jesus Addresses Crucial Issues in Discipleship

The Importance of Agreeing With Jesus

LK 12.8-12

8 "I tell you, whoever publicly confesses me before others, the Son of Man will also confess before the angels of God. 9 But whoever disowns me before others will be disowned before the angels of God.

10 And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

11 "When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, 12 for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say."

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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
	3. Jesus Addresses Crucial Issues in Discipleship
Title	i. The Importance of Agreeing With Jesus

COMMENT:

Luke's narrative of Jesus' travels through Judea and Perea in the final six months of his life (LK 9.51 to 19.27) returns today to the theme of discipleship.

Knowing that he would depart earth for heaven in just seven months, Jesus was making his final push to train and prepare his roughly 120 full-time disciples to carry on his ministry and mission to all nations after his death, resurrection, ascension, and outpouring of his Spirit on Pentecost.

The fact that Jesus spoke about the kind of persecution that his disciples would face after his resurrection shows us that Jesus was training his disciples for the future in these verses.

The section began with Jesus defining the three inter-related core principles/practices of following him as: the priority of love, obedience to his Word, and prayer (LK 10.25 to 11.13) Jesus then dealt with the greatest danger for a disciple: the spiritual abyss of hypocrisy. He used the negative example of the Pharisees as an object lesson (LK 11.14-12.7).

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In the present portion, Jesus used the issues raised by the large crowd he was proclaiming the gospel to as touch-points for further discipleship training (LK 12.8 to 13.30).

Believers are left "in" the world when we begin to follow Jesus, but we are not to be "of" the world. That is, the old attitudes and world-view that we developed before we began to follow Jesus must gradually be replaced with HIS new, kingdom attitudes and perspectives. The common attitudes of people in the crowd were perfect examples of "old" ways of thinking that his disciples needed to exchange with Jesus' "new" ways of living.

Today's text emphasized the importance of "confessing Christ" as his followers.

Hypocrisy maintains a gap between inner thoughts and motivations, and our outer behavior. Discipleship, on the other hand, is the process of adjusting everything on the inside of us to the unchanging presence and person of Jesus himself, living in us by His Holy Spirit and Word, so that both our inner and outer selves are consistent expressions of Jesus.

Since the goal of discipleship is to become like Jesus in all things, "Confession" is the heart of this growth process.

The meaning of "confess" is to "agree with." Disciple's do not argue with Jesus, or seek to change him. It is the other way around. Jesus has revealed himself to us. We then seek to adjust ourselves to him in everything. We constantly change, or grow, as we "agree with" more and more of him.

Our personal relationship with Jesus as LORD and Savior begins by faith, when we "confess," or agree with Him regarding who HE is, and our need for him as sinners. We speak out our confession with our mouths and actions, because we believe in Him in our hearts.

Then, our whole christian life is a matter of continuing to agree with Jesus, about everything!

His Word tells us about Him, and the Holy Spirit bears witness in our hearts that His word is truth. So, we give up our old thoughts and attitudes, and agree with him regarding every new discovery of who he is and does. Loving ministry to people, and witnessing to others are both a matter of agreeing with Him, too. Jesus gave us the promise of the power of the Holy Spirit to enable our agreement with him.

Refusal to agree with Jesus is equally rejection of the Holy Spirit. Failure to "confess Christ" is a serious thing indeed, for it culminates in blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. Conversely, True disciples are passionate about their "agreeing with Jesus" life-style.

APPLICATION:

Agree with Jesus about your forgiveness, and ask him to create a full agreement in your heart with him in the area in which you need to change. His Spirit will accomplish that in you as you pray for God's will to be done in you.

What attitude or behavior do you need to "agree with" Jesus about right now?

Is there an area of your values or lifestyle where have you been resisting his ways?