



The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 61 "Acknowledging the HS - Conclusion to Fighting against Hypocrisy" By Pastor Jody May

Luke 12:8-12 ESV

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."

REVIEW from 11/24 Week 1 of Fighting against Hypocrisy:

Pastor Bill spoke last week about New Year Resolutions, but we did it from the perspective of going back to where we left off in the book of Luke, specifically chapter 12:8-10. He exhorted us to make 2020 the year in which we

ACKNOWLEDGE Jesus is our everyday life! And here's the compelling reasons that he gave to us:

- Because He calls us friend.
- Because He receives us into His Kingdom.
- Because we get to serve Him and bring Him glory!
- Now, I am going to add one more reason to this, to bring us into a larger review: **Because the Father loves His Son more than anything**, and Jesus shared with us the intensity in which He loves Him:

Luke 12:4-5 ESV

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!"

That verse brings us back to our discussion we started and put on hold on 11/24. This whole discourse Jesus started at the beginning of Chapter 12 which was a response to what the pharisees were saying about Him in chapter 11. Those two



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chapters are connected, that is important to keep in mind because we are coming to a hotly debated and misunderstood text today and we want to do our best to get this right. In order to do this we need to rewind some give perspective to verses 10-12 today.

Let me hit you with when what seems like the point where Jesus had enough:

"But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons," - Luke 11:15

Then in vs. 37 He is invited to lunch and before He can even sit down the Pharisee acts shocked when Jesus doesn't do the Hokey Pokey wash your hand ritual before dinner. And it seems it rushes on Jesus like a tidal, this realization of what is going on:

"Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness." – Luke 11:39

Then it appears like the floodgates open up, and I know I would be terrified to see it, but I wish I could have been there to see this devastating condemnation of what Jesus had been perceiving and living through. He curses them 7 times, "Woes" to you! The curtain had been pulled back and Jesus was speaking as God giving a full weight of judgment because He has looked through actions and sees their heart! Now I want to read the last of these Woes because it sums up all the others and actually points directly to the point we are tackling today:

"Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter yourselves. And you hindered those who were entering." – Luke 11:52

They had failed leading the people to God by missing one thing – **the key!** The Kingdom of God was not going to come through the works that the Pharisees would do but it would **come through one man**, the Messiah, Jesus and He was **right in front of them!** They would not recognize Him, they denied all the



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miracles He did, they claimed He was from Hell, and this then even made it harder for others to get to Him (it was group think identity pressure).

So, Bill's passionate plea for us from last week, and if you did not get a chance to hear the message you need to exercise your YouTube expertise, pull it up and listen to it! **His plea to acknowledge Jesus in your daily life is the MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN DO THIS YEAR!**

BECAUSE that one action keeps you from the dangerous path that will lead you straight to Hell. Let me spell this out in case you are not tracking or I am confusing you: **You are to fear the Father (vs. 4-5) who has the ability to send people to Hell because He will not let into His presence those that do not Acknowledge His Son as the Savior of the World!** Let me sum up this review with the thing that Jesus warns us about that will be your doom unless you heed His warning:

"Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy." – Luke 12:1

The Woes, the contamination of their spiritual eyes causing blindness, the thing that makes Jesus aggressive towards them is their HYPOCRISY...

In the Greek it is the word *hypokrisis* - hü-po'-krē-sēs. The acting of a stage player. It's what the Greeks used to describe the actors in square that would pretend to be other people. The pharisees to Jesus were someone pretending to be what they were not. And these acts they were putting on were leading others into following them. As a matter of fact, they were such good actors that they **fooled themselves!** They believed that they **were holier than Jesus**, they came to our Lord believing they were better than Him and needed no saving!

So, what you have seen in the last three sermons is really a unique and eye-opening thing. **Jesus is teaching us to avoid hypocrisy, by HONORING the TRINITARIAN GOD:** God the Father – Who reveals all truth and therefore is the ultimate **Judge** because He gives and keeps the law, God the Son - who is the



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Sovereign **Savior** of the World, and God the HS that is the ultimate **Revealer** of all this Truth (what we are getting to today).

Today we are talking about how do we honor the HS, how do we acknowledge/respond/adhere to His direction to avoid hypocrisy? I will give you a clue upfront, the HS, His job and what He loves to do, is to reveal to you who Jesus is so that you can Acknowledge Him, whereby you come to know and honor your Heavenly Father. **Simply stated listening to the HS is how we battle the monster of Hypocrisy.**

Acknowledging/Honoring the HS:

1. Be in AWE when He makes you aware that you have Jesus' forgiveness.

¹⁰ And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven...

What does that mean exactly? Let's look at the other two accounts in the Synoptics of this teaching to gain a better 3D view of this statement.

"Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin " – Mark 3:28

"Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven." – Mat. 12:31

Blaspheme here is the same word used in v.10 about the HS, it means to "rail at, revile, Calumniate – make false and defamatory statements". Jesus is saying that those that make statements against Him will be forgiven. That shouldn't be a shock because we all have done that, everyone in here is a blasphemer against God because that was the **position** you **were born into**. By our actions, rebelling, not listening, not worshipping, shows that we esteemed Him not. It makes us guilty because God is all deserving our praise and worship. And the only thing that gets us to stop blaspheming Jesus IS the HS (conversion).



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No one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the **Holy Spirit. – 1 Cor. 12:3**

By the HS and His presence in your life, not just in voice but in actions, we stop blaspheming Jesus and **we begin, shown by evidence of works in our lives, proclaim/ACKNOWLEDGE Jesus is Lord!** That brings you to this knowledge, what the pharisees totally missed that key who is JESUS (acknowledging Him)!

By this you know the **Spirit of God**: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, - **1 John 4:2**

So our response, how we HONOR the HS to steer us away from Hypocrisy, is to **REALIZE** the HS in our lives: Be in **AWE, reverence, worship** when in those moments upon reflection from a verse, when you note that you actually obeyed the Bible, when you were brought to tears of conviction all because you believed that Jesus wants it.

You celebrate, stop and pray, give thanks, realize that the HS is present with you, and here's why - **the reason He is with you is because Jesus has not held offense against you**, He has loved you by a sacrifice, He has accepted you as His sibling, because the Father wanted it! If you will start to stop and pause, **be still and KNOW HE IS GOD** you are honoring the HS and by this action for you realize you did not do this, **keeping you away from hypocrisy!**

Now, with that being said let me make you aware of the situation that Jesus says is unforgiveable in the text.

2. Be AWARE of blaspheming the HS, know what that is.

¹⁰ ...but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

Here's where I think we need to go right now and that is to ask the question, **"Why is blasphemy forgiven against Jesus and not against the HS?"**



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When you ask that question, this is why I said earlier, you have to make sure to **remember the context** in which we find this verse. **This verse comes to us in the middle of a larger dialogue.** One that started with the Pharisees accusing Jesus, that led to the Woes pronounced by Jesus, to the warning of hypocrisy uttered by Jesus, to the cure of hypocrisy given by Jesus, which is **Honoring a Trinitarian God.** Of which he concludes with **why you want to avoid hypocrisy (vs.1)** because it leads to the blasphemy of the HS (vs10).

The clue to what this blasphemy is in vs. 11 where you see the purpose of the HS is to be the revealer of who Jesus is so that you can give a witness about Him. **To Honor the Spirit is to accept who Jesus is,** what He is teaching you about Him, and not hardened your heart to this truth. **Blaspheming the Spirit is to call Him a liar by not accepting the revealed truth about Jesus Christ!** That curse that Jesus was pronouncing on the **Pharisees** was because they had **blasphemed** the HS!

We get a clue to this in another book of the Bible, in the book of Hebrews, where the whole letter is written to a mostly Jewish church. In the book of Hebrews are several warnings about leaving the TRUTH that they have encountered in the teaching of the Gospels.

⁴ For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been **enlightened**, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵ and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶ and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance – **Heb. 4:4-6**

²⁶ For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, - **Heb. 10:26**

The word enlightened here does not necessarily mean a saving faith but a knowledge obtained, usually in the first century church meant that a certain level of education was obtained upon learning it would mean it is time to be baptized. **The warning is for those proclaiming faith, that if they were to abandon their pursuit of God would be to harden their hearts to the truth.**



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So, Blaspheming the HS is when you have heard the Truth, may have even agreed with some show of faith, but then turning your back on that Truth. The Pharisees had turned their back on the baptism of JB believing their works would save them and there was no need of a Messiah. That there was no need of a deeper confession of sin.

Perhaps you are here today, and there have been things that have been preached to you over and over and over, but you are becoming more accustomed to denying the convictions of the Spirit. I implore you heed the warning of this text because Jesus in love is graciously sharing with you the danger of not listening to the truth about Him. **He is not just a man that became some scapegoat for Jewish frustration and a Roman object lesson.** He is God in the flesh, and His joy was to be obedient to the Father in death, buying the way of release from death and hell, securing Himself as the King of all Kings demanding your loyalty! To reject this, you have nowhere else to go. In 2020 are you ready to acknowledge Jesus, His Lordship, every day in your life? **If you answer yes, then listen to this AWESOME promise in the scripture!**

3. Be ASSURED the HS will be with you when you are called to Acknowledge Jesus in front of others.

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."

The apostles would face the same charges as Jesus faced, they would be accused by the same men that put Jesus to death, but by the power of the HS would give them the words. **In Acts 4:8-12 (read if you have time)** Peter preaches the gospel to those that had condemned Jesus, and we are told that they were astonished for they knew he was **uneducated**, but they **recognized they had been with Jesus.**



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What a beautiful thing to have said about you. That no matter what circumstance you come across in this world that people, no matter how mad you make them and no matter how much they curse you, they can only admit that you have been with Jesus! Be assured that this **promise** that Jesus gave to His Apostles **is the same one for you. Peter actually preached that what had happened to him would happen to you as well.**

I want to close today not with an attempt to pull all of this information together, but I simply want to leave you with a sense of **ASSUREDNESS** that the HS will give you the ability to proclaim Jesus even under trials and tribulations.

1 Peter 4:12-19 ESV

Suffering as a Christian

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are **insulted** for the name of Christ, you are **blessed**, because the **Spirit of glory and of God** rests upon you. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And

"If the righteous is scarcely saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

PRAY

COMMUNION



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BENEDICTION

Go in the name of the Father, that has placed your eternal security in the capable hands of His Son.

Go in the name of the Son, that has forgiven your blasphemy, and has shared with you His inheritance making you family.

Go in the name and the power of the HS, that opens our eyes to the love of a Trinitarian God, that conquers our hypocrisy, and empowers our Resolution to Acknowledge Jesus in all of life from here on out!