

FIVE FEARS: Dismantling the Fears of Life with the Fear of God (Pt. 2) // Luke 12:8-12

Message from the series, The Gospel of Luke

Five Fears: Dismantling the Fears of Life with the Fear of God (Part 2) // Luke 12: 8-12

What is the fear of God from a biblical perspective? It is the reverent respect, love, and honor that is due his majesty (cf. Proverbs 1:7). The fear of God is tied to a life of wisdom, taking the knowledge of scripture and applying it to life. Fears of life pale in comparison.

Main point of the series: the fear of God brings confidence to the Christian life and dismantles our most common fears.

Review of Part 1—Luke 12:1-7

Fear #1: Truth—But the fear of God brings moral integrity to the privacies of life (v. 2-3)

Fear #2: Death—But the fear of God brings biblical clarity to the reality of hell (v. 4-5)

Fear #3: Loss—But the fear of God brings divine security to emotional frailty (v. 6-7)

Fear #4: Man—But the fear of God brings evangelistic strength in the midst of social pressure (v.8-9)

If you do not fear God, you will fear man. The fear of man can be debilitating in life—it brings rejection, embarrassment, contention, isolation, violence, and even brings people to a denial of Christ.

If you confess Christ, he will confess you. If you deny Christ, he will deny you. What do you have to do to rightfully confess Christ? You have to deny self. (Luke 9:23) This is not a “one and done” event—it is an ongoing lifestyle, an entire posture of life.

There are two categories of this confession: lips (verbal) and life (behavioral).

There are three kinds of moments for verbal confession, when we will have to either confess or deny:

- 1) a direct engagement (“Are you a Christian?”)—pray God would bring more of these into your life.
- 2) an evangelistic opportunity (“How do you become a Christian?”)—we need to always be growing in the ability to move a secular conversation to a sacred conversation.
- 3) a public witness (“Will you participate in this event/support this cause?”)—are we bringing clarity to the gospel or confusion?

When it comes to the confession of our life (our behavior) our desire ought to be to surrender our reputation on the altar of Christ because Christ surrendered his rights, riches, and reputation to make atonement for us.

Fear #5: Failure—But the fear of God brings supernatural help in the hour of persecution (v. 10-12)

The blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is iron-clad unbelief, a spiritual stiff-arm, silencing the Holy Spirit’s voice in your life.

We’re going to be dragged into the public square. Do we have enough spiritual clutch when it comes down to it? Jesus says do not be anxious. The Holy Spirit will teach and provide. Jesus can defend himself; the Bible can defend itself. It’s not something we have to worry about doing. When it comes to defending ourselves, we don’t have to worry, but we do have to prepare ourselves. How can we prepare? The Holy Spirit has a bank of resources inside us in the form of memorized scripture and a lifetime of holy thoughts.

Are you prepared for the free-throw line of your spiritual journey? The only way to be prepared is to have a lifetime of fearing God.

There is a moral “ought-ness”—what we ought to say. Ask God how to speak with moral clarity on the issues that we will be called to speak on. Say what we ought to say.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What fears do you face in life? Do we face these fears because we lack a holy and healthy fear of who God is?
2. Have we experienced opportunities for confessing Christ in our daily life? What has God done with those opportunities?
3. Are we building a bank of resources to draw on when we face the public square? What spiritual disciplines are we being led to develop in our lives?