

CALVARY CHAPEL OF PHILADELPHIA

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
3RD-5TH GRADE
TEACHER'S PACKET

SUNDAY MORNING

Study 16

Jesus' Teaching on Hypocrisy



Jesus' Teaching on Hypocrisy

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective This lesson will warn the students about the dangers of hypocrisy by using Jesus' teaching in Luke 12:1-12.

Key Verses

Luke 12:1-12—Main Teaching Passage

Romans 10:9

Luke 11:39

Memory Verse - Romans 10:9

"That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

Hook

Review last week's memory verse, James 5:16.

On your cart should be a cup that is clean on the outside but dirty on the inside. Pour some water into the cup and invite the students to have a drink. When they refuse, point out that the cup looks clean on the outside. Please do not actually allow a student to drink from the cup.

In Luke 11:39, Jesus compared the Pharisees to such a cup because of their hypocrisy. Today, we will see him explain this idea a bit more.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

In today's study, we again find Jesus teaching his disciples privately rather than targeting a large crowd. This time, his topic is hypocrisy. He referred to hypocrisy as "the leaven of the Pharisees" because, like leaven, just a little bit of hypocrisy can sneak into a person's life, but it grows until it consumes the whole life. Jesus said that hypocrisy, which is when a person tries to appear good and righteous but in reality lives in sin, will ultimately be revealed, because while we can fool men, God sees everything, and one day, He will reveal the truth to all. No one can fool God.

Next, Jesus addressed hypocrisy's root cause, the fear of man. People try to create a certain appearance because they are afraid of what others may think of them. Instead, Jesus said that we should be concerned with what God thinks of us. The worst man can do is kill us, but God can do far more. He holds our eternal destiny in His hands, deciding whether we will spend eternity in Heaven or Hell. However, God holding our lives in His hands should be a comfort, not a source of fear or distress. After all, God even cares for the sparrows, a bird that was so cheap in Jesus' day that five could be bought for a few dollars. If God takes care of each sparrow, we can trust that He will also take care of us, who are worth much more than sparrows.

Finally, Jesus presented the ultimate test of hypocrisy: will we acknowledge Him before men? If we are willing to tell people that we know and love Jesus no matter what they think, Jesus will acknowledge us in Heaven. However, those who deny Jesus and blaspheme the Holy Spirit will be denied before God and will not be forgiven. Acknowledging Jesus before others might be scary, but Jesus assures us not to worry. The Holy Spirit will tell us what to say when we are put in those situations. All we need to do is be willing to acknowledge God before men.

LOOK

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus called the Pharisees out on a number of issues, but His most common problem with them is their hypocrisy. The Pharisees only cared about what man thought about them. They only cared about what they looked like from the outside. They did not care what they looked like on the inside. They would go out in public and pray great prayers or donate lots of money to the temple. They would fast often and make sure that everyone knew it. However, on the inside, their hearts were filled with wickedness and sin. They cared more about what man thought about them than what God thought about them.

The interpretation/
exegesis of the passage.
What does this passage
mean? How does this
passage apply to my
life?

LOOK (Continued)

Today, hypocrisy is just as common as it was in Jesus' day, although it might look a little bit different. Hypocrisy today takes two common forms, although they share the same root: the fear of man. Usually, these two forms go hand-and-hand. Around believers, there is the challenge to be a religious hypocrite, someone who acts spiritual but really has no love for Jesus. Maybe they go to Sunday School every week, memorize verses, and know the books of the Bible, but on the inside they don't really care about Jesus.

The second form of hypocrisy is the person who claims to follow Jesus but will deny Him when they are around unbelievers. At church they might say they are Christians, but they will not admit it around non-Christian friends. In some countries, this could be out of fear of persecution. In countries like the U.S., they might fear being made fun of, losing friends, or being an outcast. Once again, these two forms of hypocrisy usually go together. When someone is more concerned about what people think about them than what God thinks about them, they will act how they think people want them to act, not how God wants them to act. Around Christians, they act like Christians, but around unbelievers, they try to deny Jesus.

Romans 10:9 gives two conditions for salvation: confessing Jesus with the mouth and believing in Him with the heart. These are also the two things that mark an unhypocritical life. Will I confess with my mouth that Jesus is Lord, or will I deny Him in front of unbelievers? Do I believe in Him in my heart, or do I only claim to love Jesus on the outside? Encourage the class to check themselves for any hypocrisy in their lives.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

As a class, memorize Romans 10:9.

Have the students think of an area in their lives where they may be tempted to be hypocritical. Encourage them to pray about this area each day this week and aim to live for the Lord no matter what people think.

Pray: Ask God for strength to live an unhypocritical life. Pray that your class would fear God and not man.

Parent Question: What does it mean to be a hypocrite?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Luke 12:1-12 by David Guzik

Attitudes for Followers of Jesus

A. The kind of attitude those who will face persecution should have.

1. (1-3) A warning to beware of hypocrisy.

In the meantime, when an innumerable multitude of people had gathered together, so that they trampled one another, He began to say to His disciples first *of all*, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known. Therefore whatever you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops.

a. **Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy:** Hypocrisy is like *leaven* in the sense that it only takes a little bit of it to affect a great mass. A little bit of hypocrisy can be like a little bit of strychnine.

b. Some think that the only way to avoid being a hypocrite is to never aspire to a higher standard. But this is dangerous both for ourselves and for society. We should aspire to a high standard, yet be honest about our difficulty in fulfilling that standard.

c. **For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known:** The art of being a hypocrite depends on concealment, but one day all will be revealed. We can only be hypocrites before men, but never before God. He sees through the actor's mask we put on.

i. In 1985, a nationally known evangelist and preacher wrote a book condemning sin in America, especially sexual sin and pornography. Just a short time later, he tearfully confessed years of involvement in these very sins, and promised repentance-but was arrested for similar crimes again a few years down the road. His hypocrisy may have surprised many people, but not God. He knew all along.

2. (4-5) Do not fear persecution.

"And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!"

a. **Do not be afraid of those who kill the body:** Hypocrites will always despise true believers, so these words concerning persecution fit in well. In addition, when Jesus spoke to these disciples of His about martyrdom and persecution, He knew that all of them-except John - would die martyr's deaths for Him.

b. **After that have no more that they can do:** All your persecutors can do is kill you, and God has ultimate power over the life and death of the believer. Therefore, we shouldn't fear our persecutors, but have a

healthy respect of God that makes us more concerned with obeying Him than any man.

c. There are literally millions of examples of people standing strong for Jesus through persecution. Following is the particular story of an Englishman named Rowland Taylor.

i. In a book first printed in 1890, John Ryle describes the death of Rowland Taylor, who was executed in England because he believed that priests could marry and that the bread and wine of communion did not become the actual, literal, body and blood of Jesus.

ii. On the last day of January 1555, Taylor appeared with two others before the Bishop of Winchester, and was charged with heresy and dividing the church. When they refused to change their minds, they were condemned to death. When condemned, they replied back to the Bishop, "We know that God, the righteous Judge, will require our blood at your hands, and the proudest of all of you shall repent this receiving again of Antichrist, and of the tyranny you now show against the flock of Christ."

iii. On February 4, Taylor was kicked out of the priesthood, and that night, his wife and son were permitted to eat dinner with him. After dinner they left, with much affection and tears. The next day, he was led out to Hadleigh to be executed, so that he would be burned to death in the city where he served as a pastor and in front of his congregation.

iv. When he left the London jail on the morning of February 5, it was still dark. Taylor's wife suspected he might be taken that morning, so she waited with her two daughters outside the jail. When she called out to him, the sheriff allowed her to come with her daughters for one last meeting with her husband. Rowland Taylor took his little daughter Mary up in his arms, while Elizabeth knelt with him and said the Lord's Prayer. They prayed together, then kissed and hugged, and Taylor said to his wife: "Farewell, my dear wife: be of good comfort, for I am quiet in my conscience. God shall raise up a father for my children." He kissed his daughter Mary and said, "God bless you, and make you His servant;" and, kissing Elizabeth, he said, "God bless you. I pray you all stand strong and steadfast to Christ and His Word." As he was led away, his wife called out, "God be with you, dear Rowland: I will, with God's grace, meet you at Hadleigh."

v. The journey from London to Hadleigh took several days, and all along on the trip, Rowland Taylor was joyful and merry, as if he were going to a banquet or a party. But on February 9, 1555, they came into Hadleigh. When they were still two miles from town, Taylor leapt off his horse and started on foot-but he was walking fast, almost as if he were dancing. The sheriff asked him how he felt, and he said, "Well, God be praised, good master sheriff, never better; for now I know I am almost at home ... even at my Father's house... O good Lord, I thank You! I shall yet once before I die, see my flock whom You, Lord, know I have most heartily loved and most truly taught. Good Lord, bless them, and keep them steadfast in Thy Word and truth."

vi. When they came into Hadleigh, they put a hood over his head and came over a bridge. At the foot of the bridge was a poor man with five children, who cried out, "O dear father and good shepherd, Dr. Taylor, God help you, as you have many a time helped me and my poor children." The streets were crowded on both sides with people who wanted to see him; when they saw him being led to death, they cried and wept with all their strength. People cried out, "Ah, good Lord, there goes our good shepherd from us, that so faithfully has taught us, so fatherly has cared for us, and so godly has governed us. O merciful God! What shall we poor scattered lambs do? What shall come of this most wicked world? God Lord, strengthen him and comfort him." Taylor answered back, "I have preached to you God's Word and truth, and am come this day to seal it with my blood."

vii. When they came to the town square, he heard a great multitude and asked where they were. When they told him they were at the place he would be executed, he said "Thank God, I am even at home," and he took the hood from his head. When the people saw his face, there was an outpouring of emotion. They wept and cried out, "God save you, good Dr. Taylor! Jesus Christ strengthen you; the Holy Spirit comfort you," and many other such things. Taylor wanted to speak to the people one last time, but as soon as he opened his mouth, a

guard put a spear right up to his open mouth, and made him stop.

viii. He started giving away his clothes-first his boots, then his coat and jacket, till all he had left was his pants and shirt. He then cried out with a loud voice, "Good people, I have taught you nothing but God's Holy Word, and those lessons that I have taken out of God's blessed Book, the Holy Bible; and I am come here today to seal it with my blood." But then one of the guards clubbed him over the head and said, "Is that keeping your promise of silence, you heretic?" So, seeing he could not speak, he knelt down to pray. A poor woman came to kneel beside him and pray, and the guards tried to push her away but she would not go.

ix. When he had prayed, he came to the stake he would be tied to and he kissed it, stepped into a barrel, and stood with his hands folded in prayer and his eyes towards heaven as they tied him to the stake. After some agonizing delays, they finally lit the fire, and Rowland Taylor prayed out loud: "Merciful Father of heaven, for Jesus Christ my Saviour's sake, receive my soul into Your hands." Then he stood perfectly still as the fires arose around him, without crying or moving, until a guard clubbed him on the head and his brains fell out, and his dead corpse fell into the fire. A marker was left that simply said, *1555: Dr. Taylor, in defending that which was good, at this place left his blood.*

3. (6-7) Realize your great value to God.

"Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows."

a. **Not one of them is forgotten before God:** If God remembers the sparrows, He isn't going to forget you-so don't lose heart. As Rowland Taylor shared in some final words to his family:

i. Before he left London to be executed, Rowland Taylor wrote his final thoughts in a book and presented them to his son: "I say to my wife and to my children, the Lord gave you unto me, and the Lord has taken me from you and you from me: blessed be the name of the Lord! I believe that they are blessed which die in the Lord. God cares for sparrows, and for the hairs of our heads. I have ever found Him more faithful and favourable than is any father or husband. Trust, therefore, in Him by means of our dear Savior Christ's merits. Believe, love, fear, and obey Him: pray to Him, for He has promised to help. Count me not dead, for I shall certainly live and never die. I go before, and you shall follow after to our long home."

b. **The very hairs of your head are all numbered:** They say that a red-head has about 90,000 hairs; a dark-haired person has about 120,000 hairs, and a blonde has about 145,000. But God knows *exactly* how many hairs you have-and if He knows that about you, He knows all the important things also!

c. **You are of more value than many sparrows:** Those who are persecuted are tempted to give in to the feeling that they are worthless and no one cares for them. But someone does care about you, a loving God in heaven.

4. (8-10) The importance of a good confession.

"Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God. And anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but to him who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven."

a. **Whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God:** Thousands upon thousands of Christians through the ages have met the challenge of publicly confessing Christ, no matter what the cost.

i. In the early church, the "confessors" had special honor, they were those who had endured suffering for Jesus, yet had been spared death.

ii. You yourself may often be "put on trial" before the world. It is essential that we are able to confess Jesus at that time.

b. There are all sorts of ways that we can confess Jesus; it is important to be able to do it if ever put on trial, but it is also important to do it through our godly lives every day. Just by living for Jesus, we confess His name.

c. **A word against the Son of Man** probably refers to a moment of weakness (especially in public testimony), which can be forgiven. **Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit** is a settled rejection of God's truth, which **will not be forgiven**.

i. This idea of the **blasphemy against the Holy Spirit** has troubled many; there are many who feel totally defeated and hopeless before God, convinced that they have committed this unpardonable sin.

ii. We must recognize the terrible danger of the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, and our need to avoid this sin at all cost-yet, at the same time, guarding our hearts against the unwarranted accusation of this sin.

iii. What is **blasphemy against the Holy Spirit**? We understand this by first understanding what the ministry of the Holy Spirit is all about. Jesus said, *and when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment* ([John 16:8](#)); and that *He will testify of Me* ([John 15:26](#)). Therefore, when we persistently reject the work the Holy Spirit wants to do in us, when we have a continued, settled rejection of what He wants to tell us about Jesus, then we have blasphemed the Holy Spirit.

iv. The blasphemy of the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven-not because it is a sin "too big" for God to forgive, but because it is an attitude of heart that cares nothing for God's forgiveness. It never has forgiveness because it never wants forgiveness God's way. It may want forgiveness on its own terms, but never God's way.

v. The way to *not* blaspheme the Holy Spirit is to receive Jesus Christ today, to stop rejecting His work of bringing you to Jesus.

5. (11-12) Don't worry about what to say-the Holy Spirit will help you.

Now when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.

a. **Now when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities:** Few of us have had the need to trust God because we have been hauled before **magistrates and authorities** for the sake of Jesus. Yet all have our own arenas where we need to trust God to give a bold witness.

b. **Do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say:** This is an exhortation to trust in God, not your eloquence. It is not an excuse for poor preparation in teaching or preaching.

c. **For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say:** Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will help when you are "put on trial"; He will give you the right words to say.