

## Overcome Fear of Man

(Luke 12:1-12)

### Introduction

1. [Series] Resonate: Tune into Jesus' frequency to amplify the gospel in your life & church, and to impact the culture.
2. Mini-series on dealing with fear
  - a. Last week: Fear of demons; next week: fears about money; this week: fear of people.
  - b. How are you afraid of people?

### Fear of Man [Luke 12:1-3]

1. [1] Jesus' ministry is growing, but the religious people get in the way, inhibiting people from coming to Jesus.
  - a. Pharisees are religious bullies who rule others through fear.
  - b. Jesus calls them "hypocrites": Actors wearing a mask, because they maintain an image as self-appointed rule makers but don't follow their own rules.
  - c. [2-3] Pharisees use fear to bully people, but the truth about their hypocrisy will come out when God judges.
2. Fear is a worship issue
  - a. Jesus will mention "fear" 5 times, anxiety caused by fear of man, and how to overcome them.
  - b. Pharisees want you to be scared of them so they can influence or control people.
  - c. [Prov 29:25] The fear of man is a trap/snare; it is harmful & imprisoning.
  - d. "Fear in a biblical sense includes being afraid of someone, but also extends to holding someone in awe, being controlled or mastered by people, worshiping other people." [*When people are big and God is small*]
  - e. We replace biblical "fear of the Lord" with fear of others (peer pressure, people-pleasing, codependence).
3. Fear of man: When someone other than Jesus is lord over you.
  - a. You should submit to godly authority, but there are people who have no right to be in authority over you.
  - b. They could be horrific, bossy & rude, or appear nice, sweet & kind.
  - c. Application: Who sits on a throne in your life?

### Overcome fear of man with an eternal perspective [Luke 12:4-5]

1. [4] If you refuse to live out of fear of man, some will cause you to suffer because bullies hate being dethroned.
  - a. They may inflict suffering emotionally, financially, spiritually, mentally, even physically to the point of death.
  - b. If you follow Jesus who suffered, you are going to suffer, so be prepared.
  - c. If you're going to be a Christian, you've got to be willing to live or die for Jesus.
2. [5] There is something worse than death: Hell.
  - a. Those who are not believers: This life is their heaven; this is as good as it gets.
    - i. If you reject Jesus, you go to Hell to suffer conscious, eternal torment forever; it's worse than death.
  - b. Those who belong to Jesus: This life is your hell; this is as bad as it gets.
    - i. Even if we are killed, we go to be with Jesus, which is way better (cf. Phil 1:21-23).
3. Application: Overcome fear of man with an eternal perspective about suffering.
  - a. Without Jesus, suffering is eternal; with Jesus, suffering in this life is temporary, but something better awaits.

## **Overcome fear of man with the love of God [Luke 12:6-7]**

1. When suffering at the hands of another, you may wonder: Does God really care? Jesus responds: "Don't be afraid."
  - a. [6a] God knows you perfectly.
  - b. [6b] God remembers you continually.
  - c. [7a] God watches you carefully.
  - d. [7b] God values you deeply.
2. Overcome fear of man with the love of God
  - a. Even if what's happening isn't good, holy & just, it will be used by a good, holy & just God (cf. Rom 8:28-29).
  - b. Application: In suffering, picture your Heavenly Father who loves, cradles, carries & whispers to you.

## **Overcome fear of man with the fear of God [Luke 12:8-12]**

1. Big Idea: In response to Jesus, do you have fear of man or fear of God?
  - a. Fear of man is a trap [Prov 29:25]; Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom [Prov 1:7].
  - b. If someone is more important than Jesus, they are your functional lord, even if Jesus is your theological lord.
2. [8-9] We fear & worship God by acknowledging Jesus is Lord before men.
  - a. [10a] If Jesus is your Lord, He can forgive anyone of anything.
  - b. [10b] There's one sin He will not forgive: Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit
  - c. Blasphemy against the Spirit: Resisting all of His work to show you Jesus is Lord, & ultimately rejecting Jesus (cf. Luke 11:15, Matt 12:28-32).
  - d. Application: Don't fear/worship men, fear/worship the One who's just, good, loving & determines your eternity.
3. Application: How do you need to acknowledge Jesus as Lord?
  - a. [11] When we trust & worship God, we have to confront the people we once feared in hard conversations.
  - b. [12] Don't be anxious; be honest. The Holy Spirit will give us words & wisdom.
  - c. Trusting Jesus as Lord not only changes us internally, but also guides/empowers us externally.
4. The Holy Spirit did that with Jesus, in hard conversations with religious bullies by the power of the Spirit.
  - a. He sends the Holy Spirit to Christians to have hard conversations, acknowledging Jesus as Lord.
  - b. He sends the Holy Spirit to non-Christians to have hard conversations with Him, to repent & receive Him.

## **Conclusion**

1. Application: Who's on a throne in your life?
  - a. Repent, get them off the throne, receive Jesus as lord, and acknowledge that He sits on the throne.
2. Application: What difficult conversation do you need to have by the power of the Holy Spirit?
  - a. When facing someone you fear, have that hard conversation & trust the Holy Spirit to empower your words.