

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

BEWARE

Luke 12:1-3 “Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees—their hypocrisy. The time is coming when everything that is covered up will be revealed, and all that is secret will be made known to all. Whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be shouted from the housetops for all to hear!”

At the end of Luke, chapter 11, Jesus addressed the hypocrisy of the Pharisees. As Luke 12 begins, Jesus turns His attention to His disciples. These words are in the imperative voice. They are therefore strong and in this case a warning to His followers.

Jesus’ warning to His disciples is hypocrisy is like a germ. It is spread from person to person. It first infected the Pharisees, but it could very well infect His disciples as well. We know that indeed it did. Judas, one of the original twelve, to almost the very moment he led Jesus’ enemies into the garden to capture Him, appeared to be a faithful disciple. Twelve pieces of silver was his spiritual weakness. Twelve pieces of silver stole his heart.

Jesus says in these verses that hypocrisy may be covered up for a time, perhaps even for a lifetime, but there will come a time when it will be revealed. In Judas’ case it was in the garden. For sure, it will be put on public display if not sooner, on the day of judgment.

The Pharisees covered up their hypocrisy, their wickedness with religiosity. They appeared in public to be spiritual, religious, righteous, law abiding, committed to Yahweh. Their hearts, however, were filled with idolatry of self-worship. Judas appeared to be one of the leaders of the disciples carrying out the responsibility of caring for the treasury of the group. In reality his love for money led him to “stealing from the till,” and accepting a bribe to betray his Master.

You have received a more powerful “leaven.” Through your baptism the Holy Spirit has instilled in your heart the kingdom of God. Jesus, God’s Son, lives in you and overcomes for you the germ of hypocrisy and all other sins Satan would sow

in your heart. Through Christ you have received the victory that sets you apart to live your life faithfully following Jesus as He leads you through this life to everlasting life with Him and all the saints.

Prayer: Lord, protect me from the sin of hypocrisy and all other sins, keeping me faithful in believing in You and following You through this life to heaven itself. In Your holy name. Amen.

Lord, Thee I love with all my heart; I pray Thee, ne'er from me depart,
With tender mercy cheer me, Earth has no pleasure I would share.
Yes, heav'n itself were void and bare If Thou, Lord, wert not near me.
And should my heart for sorrow break, My trust in Thee can nothing shake.
Thou art the portion I have sought; Thy precious blood my soul has bought.
Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and Lord, Forsake me not!
I trust Thy Word.

Yea, Lord, 'twas Thy rich bounty gave My body, soul, and all I have
In this poor life of labor. Lord, grant that I in ev'ry place
May glorify Thy lavish grace And help and serve my neighbor.
Let no false doctrine me beguile; Let Satan not my soul defile.
Give strength and patience unto me To bear my cross and follow Thee.
Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and Lord,
In death Thy comfort still afford.

Lord, let at last Thine angels come, To Abr'ham's bosom bear me home,
That I may die unfeared; And in its narrow chamber keep
My body safe in peaceful sleep Until Thy reappearing.
And then from death awaken me, That these mine eyes with joy may see,
O Son of God, Thy glorious face, My Savior and my fount of grace.
Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend, my prayer attend,
And I will praise Thee without end.

(LSB 708)