

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE PERSECUTED

(Luke 12:1-12)

A. FALSE TEACHERS WILL EVENTUALLY BE EXPOSED (Luke 12:1-3)

1. It is not difficult to see why our Lord gave this particular warning at this time; His disciples could be tempted to either _____ the crowds or _____ trouble with the religious leaders. (v. 1a)
2. Before thousands of people Jesus delivered warnings against false teachers, and likened their _____ to _____, which starts out small but spreads rather quickly. (v. 1b)
3. What is now _____ because of hypocrisy will one day become _____ as Paul wrote, "*in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ*" (vv. 2-3, cf., Rom. 2:15-16)

B. ENCOURAGEMENT TO THOSE COUNTING THE COST (Luke 12:4-12)

1. For His disciples, the remedy for hypocrisy was to forget about what people might _____ or _____ to them, because they could only go so far. (v. 4)
2. Jesus knew that the natural human tendency was to avoid _____ and cling to _____; and so He encouraged His disciples that the fear of the Lord was the fear that conquers all other fears. (v. 5)

3. Christ used two illustrations to encourage His disciples that they would _____ be forgotten; they were by far more _____ than sparrows. (vv. 6-7)

4. While confessing (Gr. *homolgesei*) and denying (Gr. *arnesetai*) are polar expressions, Jesus stated that these were the disciples' _____ options; and they obviously needed to make the _____ choice. (vv. 8-9)

* How can these two verses be best explained in light of the context of discipleship?

5. These words mean that speaking against the person of Jesus _____ forgiven because the insult may be based on _____ of His true identity. (v. 10a, cf., Acts 2:22-24, 36-37, 40-42)

6. The unpardonable sin of blaspheming the Holy Spirit _____ be committed today because it was _____ the miracles that the Holy Spirit was doing _____ the Son of God at the time. (v. 10b)

7. “*When*” (not “*if*”) His disciples were dragged before the authorities, they need _____ fear for a ready defense, the Holy Spirit would _____ them the words. (vv. 11-12)

8. This promise of the Holy Spirit’s enabling, however, does not compensate for a _____ of _____ on your part, nor for a carnal walk.

* What can you personally apply from this passage?