**The Gospel of Luke**

**Witness to the Gentiles - #33**

**Hypocrisy of Pharisees; Public Confession**

**Luke 12:1-3, 4-9**

**Luke 12:1-3 – Hypocrisy, the leaven of the Pharisees**

***1*** *In the meantime, when the many thousands of the multitude were gathered together, insomuch that they trod one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, “Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is their hypocrisy.* ***2*** *But there is nothing covered up, that shall not be revealed: and hid, that shall not be known.* ***3*** *Wherefore whatsoever ye have said in the darkness shall be heard in the light; and what you have spoken in the ear in the inner chambers shall be proclaimed upon the housetops.”*

**Notes and studies**

1. Leaven which is “yeast” and has had several uses and it was sued for “sour” bread and was left to ferment.
2. It was figuratively used in a good sense (1 Cor 5:8) and in a bad sense when the house was cleaned up from all forms of bread and yeast just before the Passover.
3. Hypocrisy was sued also in Hebrew (Isa 32:6) and it means originally “ungodliness”. It has its marks:

a. Deceitful words and behavior.

b. Revealing the opposite of what is embraces

c. Mouth commitment without the will or the heart intension.

1. What was said in secret, as the word dark is a metaphor for the secret and the hidden, has to be said publically.

**Luke 12:4-9 - Fear not from Public Confession**

***4 “****And I say unto you my friends, be not afraid of them which kill the body, and after that can do no more.* ***5*** *But I will warn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after the killing has the authority to cast into (Gehenna) hell; yes, I say to you, he is the one to fear.* ***6*** *Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in the sight of God.* ***7*** *But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not: you are of more value than many sparrows.*

***8*** *“And I say unto you, everyone who shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God:* ***9*** *but everyone who disowns me in the presence of men shall be denied in the presence of the angels of God.*

**Notes and Studies**

1. *“My friends,”* which is a very intimate address (compare John 15:13-15).
2. *“Do not fear”* which is repeated three times in verse 5.

**A Note from Philemon**

**Four Kinds of Fear**

“We know 4 different kinds of fear:

1. Fear of death, which hits those who have not been crucified with the Lord.

2. Fear of God’s wrath, which sleeps in the heart of those who had no taste of God’s love.

3. Fear of people who have power over us because we think that our life is in their hands. Many of our brothers fear repercussions and death at the hands of Moslems.

4. Fear of illness and old age, because [we think] our life is ours, not the gift that God the Father gave to us.”

**Who has the authority to cast into Gehenna (Hell)?**

1. NT scholars were divided; some said it is Satan.

2. But from the context and from the NT itself, it is God who has such authority for this is made clear in Revelation 2:11, 20:6, 14, 21, and 21:8, and called “second death.”

3. We are told not to fear Satan but to resist him, (James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:9).

4. The “fear of God” is not something alien to our life, for Paul warned us not to despise the Jews: “*And if some of the branches be broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them partake of the root and fatness of the olive tree; Boast not against the branches. But if you boast, you bore not the root, but the root you. You will say then, the branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Be not high minded, but fear: For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not you.”* (Rom 11:17-21, see also 2 Cor 7:11; Phil 2:12; 1 Pet 1:17; 2:17)

**Dialogue with Philemon**

**On ‘Fear of the Lord’**

George: How do you understand: “The Fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”? (Prov 1:7)

Philemon: When we know that there is a Creator we care about his creation because fear teaches us that creation is not our possession.

George: Is this the only kind of fear?

Philemon: No, when we love our heavenly Father, we fear losing his love. Some who at the beginning of their life fear the Father as Judge, and this is not healthy but leads to weakness of the inner life. Some repent out of fear and we call this sick repentance. Others who are under the burden of guilt fear punishment and such fear does not allow them to know God as Father but only as God. We have spokes before about 4 different kinds of fear. Do you remember them? (p. 2)

George: Yes. But tell me what is that “losing the Father’s love”?

Philemon: This is all those who think that the Father loves them because they are good and that such love depends on their Good Nature.

**A short note on the use of *Gehenna* in the NT**

1. “Gehenna,” the word, traveled from Hebrew to Greek. It comes from the Hebrew ***hinnom***, and in the LXX it was translated as: ***phranx*** / ***Onom Jesh*** 15:8; ***nape*** / ***Onnam Josh*** 18:16; ***gaibenenom*** Jer 7:32; ***Gaienna Josh*** 18:16. It was a location of a valley north southwest of Jerusalem that led to the Kidron Valley.
2. In the OT early history there was a high place called ***Topheth*** where the children of the tribe of Judah were offered as a burnt sacrifice to the god Baal-Molech (see, Jer 7:32, 19:9-4, 32, 34-35; 2 Kings 16:3, 21:6, 23:10 and 2 Chron 28:3, 33:6).
3. The same place became a place for potters and dumped rubbish (Jer 18:14; 19:2, and Neh 2:13).
4. Because fire had been associated with “Sheol” (Deut 32:22), it was regarded as a place of punishment (Isa 32:10) and became the abyss of fire where the wicked will be punished in the extra collection of books of Judith 16:17;1 book of Enoch 10:13;18:11-16 and 2 book of Esdras known in Latin as Ezra (7:36).
5. The name “Gehenna” appeared in 2 Esdras 2:29;7:36).
6. In the life of our Lord in the flesh, Gehenna became a place of torment of all sinners.

**The five sparrows and the two pennies**

1. Sparrows were and still are food for the poor who can’t buy meat. If two for a penny then four should be for two pennies, but the fifth was added extra to the consumer.
2. The Greek word for penny is ***assario***.” This was a copper coin equal to 1/16 of a denarius. In the [Roman currency](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_currency) system, the denarius (Anglicized plural: denarii) was a small [silver coin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silver_coin) first minted about 211 BC. The word ***denarius*** is derived from the [Latin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin) *dēnī* "containing ten")

**The Hair on your head is numbered (verse 7)**

This is one of the affectionate ways of God expressing his love for humanity.

**A Note from Philemon**

**‘What is unknown to us …’**

“On hearing that our hair is numbered by our Father, I tremble for I don’t know this number and a while ago, I lost some of my hair which I think fell on the ground. I took one and looked at it and called our Father: ‘Did this one fall by your permission, and was not even forgotten because you know that it will come off my head? How great is your love Father! You know even the unknown to us and that is what we see every day in our hair.”

**Notes on verses 8-9 - Confession**

1. Confession of Jesus means owning Jesus, but denying Jesus means disowning, for confession is not just verbal but commitment.
2. God’s angels are part of his heavenly court who will appear on the Day of Judgment (Jn 1:51; Acts 10:3; Gal 4:14;Heb 1:16)

**Sin against the Holy Spirit**

1. From Matthew 12:32 we learn that this sin was attributing the work of God, which is done by God in the most obvious way, to Satan. It is not just any other sin.
2. In our time, some preachers have enlarged this very narrow circle of this very sin to include: lack of repentance, resistance to preaching, staying on sexual immorality and others. This is not in the NT.
3. Blasphemy" came to us via [Middle English](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_English) ***blasfemen*** and [Old French](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_French) ***blasfemer*** and [Late Latin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Late_Latin) ***blasphemare*** from [Greek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_language) **βλασφημέω**, from **βλάπτω** "injure" and **φήμη** "utterance, talk, speech". From ***blasphemare*** also came Old French ***blasmer***, from which English "[blame](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blame)" came. Blasphemy: from Greek, ***blasphemia*** "a speaking ill, impious speech, slander," from ***blasphemein*** "to speak evil of,” in the sense of speaking evil of God, which includes curses, as described in Isaiah:

*“Now therefore, what have I here, says the Lord, that my people is taken away for nothing? They that rule over them make them to scream, says the Lord; and my name continually every day is blasphemed”* (Isa 52:5),

(see also Romans 2:24; Rev. 13:1, 6; 16:9, 11, 21).

So it is also evil speaking, or abuse (LXX of 1 Kings 21:10; Acts 13:45; 18:6, etc.).

1. Weakness and failure or what is called today “habitual-sin” is not an act of Blasphemy.

**Note from Philemon**

Q: Why is there no forgiveness?

A. Because there is no repentance, for those who think evil of God and mixing God and Satan as they are one are those who have lost discernment and have sunk into the depth of evil and lost the difference between good and evil.

***Pope’s Notes***

**Class Contacts**

George & May Bebawi Bob & Pam Walters

403 Shoemaker Dr. 12281 Blue Springs Lane

Carmel, IN 46032 Fishers, IN 46037

317-818-1487 317-694-4141 / 317-727-7917

*Audio at GeorgeBebawi.com* rlwcom@aol.com