

February 25, 2024 – Pastor Kevin Olivier
Luke 12:8-12 – “Confess Christ Before Men”

- A. What happens when you are given opportunities to confess your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ?
- B. Word began to spread about the authoritative preaching and miraculous signs and wonders of Jesus. With a huge gathering of thousands, Jesus began to preach. His sermon was recorded in **Lu 12:1 to 13:9**.

Endeavor to confess Christ before men.	I. CONFESS CHRIST SO HE CONFESSES YOU II. THE SIN GOD WILL NOT FORGIVE III. THE HOLY SPIRIT’S HELP IN THE HOUR OF NEED
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I. **CONFESS CHRIST SO HE CONFESSES YOU** → **vv8-9**

A. The Greek word for “**confess**” in **v8** means to admit, profess, or acknowledge that something is factual or true.¹

1. Some of us are rather private. We may have a personal acknowledgement that Jesus is Lord and Savior; however, what Jesus is talking about here is making a public profession or confession.
2. *The Book of Church Order* for our denomination mentions that we are in keeping of **v8** above when a brother or sister stands before the church to take membership vows.
 - a. This is true, yet the context Jesus is talking about is in one’s daily life.
 - b. It is always the Christian’s calling to confess Christ in their schooling, work, leisure, and family life. It is not just for the Lord’s Day or for the morning of the Lord’s Day.
 - c. This is what Paul taught in **Col 3:17** “**Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.**”
 1. Giving God thanks is not only for Sundays.
 2. Giving God praise and worship is not only for Sundays either.
 3. **Eccles 9:10** “**Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might**”
 4. **1 Cor 10:31** “**Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.**”

- B. You are to confess or profess the name of Jesus even before those who frown upon your faith.
1. If you say that Jesus is your Lord and Savior, He will say that you are His beloved, forgiven one when you stand before the Father on the great day of judgment.
 2. If you are ashamed of Jesus, He will be ashamed of you! → **Mark 8:34-38**

¹ Arndt, W., Danker, F. W., Bauer, W., & Gingrich, F. W. (2000). In *A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature* (3rd ed., p. 708). University of Chicago Press.

II. THE SIN GOD WILL NOT FORGIVE →**v10**

- A. The two robbers on each side of Jesus are examples of people speaking against Jesus, the Son of Man.
1. They followed along saying the same sort of things as the chief priests, scribes, and elders who were all mocking Jesus, saying **“He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe in Him.”**²
 2. One of the two men had the Holy Spirit working in him as he came closer to facing his death. He stopped speaking against the Son of Man. Instead, he pleaded by saying, **“Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom!”** Jesus then said, **“Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise” (Lu 23:42-43).**
- B. There is hope for even those who deny and even mock Jesus if they turn from their sin. There is hope for those who even vehemently seek to persecute Christians, even condone their being stoned to death.
- C. How is it that one **“blasphemes against the Holy Spirit”** according to **v10**?
1. We must turn to another gospel to get an answer. → **Mark 3:22-30**
 2. Dr. William Hendrickson wrote, “The bitter opponents of Jesus have been ascribing to Satan what the Holy Spirit, through Christ, was achieving. Moreover, they were doing this willfully, deliberately. In spite of all the evidence to the contrary...”³
 3. This sin is so vile in the sight of God that it will not be forgiven those who commit it.
 4. The same Holy Spirit that has enabled true believers to sincerely profess Jesus as Lord and Savior will keep them from committing this heinous, unforgivable sin.

III. THE HOLY SPIRIT’S HELP IN THE HOUR OF NEED →**vv11-12**

- A. This promise of Jesus came true for the saints as recorded in the NT before the canon of Scripture was completed.
1. In **Acts 7**, Stephen gave his magnificent defense before the Sanhedrin.
 2. Paul was also given guidance by Holy Spirit to answer before **“synagogues and the rulers and the authorities” (Lu 12:11).**
 - a. Because of his appeal, Paul was able to give a defense before Caesar.
 - b. During his time in captivity waiting for his trial, Paul was able to give his witness before the whole praetorian guard **(Phil 2:13).**
 - c. Paul’s ministry allowed for him to say that there were saints among Caesar’s household **(Phil 4:22).**
- B. Powerful testimonies of faith in Christ were given during early and later church history according to *Foxes Book of Martyrs*.
- C. According to persecution.com, there continue to be many stories of modern Christians who willingly suffer and even die for their Christian faith. The Holy Spirit taught them and gave them boldness to confess Christ before men even when they were faced with death.

Review, further application, and conclusion:

² **Mat 27:41-44**

³ Hendrickson, Wm. *New Testament Commentary: Luke* p. 656