



STORIES OF LIFE!

The Gospel of Luke

The Untold Story!

Luke 12:1-12

Message #39 of 50 – S819

Sermon given on November 25, 2018



Sunday Morning Service

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The Untold Story!

Luke 12:1-12

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Luke 12**
- We continue a study through the Gospel of Luke – **The Stories of Life**
- As we have been going through this series, I have said a number of times that God is writing a story in your life
- It is the story of Christ living in you and through you
- If God is writing the story of Jesus in your life – it makes sense that God wants that story told
- Today, we are going to see how God feels about someone who does not tell the story He is writing in the life of a Christian
- Jesus is going to talk to us in today's text about the untold story of a Christian
- Do you have an untold story of Christ in your life?
- Let's pray and then get into today's text
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **The Untold Story!**
- Chapter 11 ended with the scribes and Pharisees turning on Christ because He publicly revealed the condition of their hearts – full of greed and wickedness – even though on the outside they appeared to be religious and holy
- They would be increasingly hostile to Jesus, right up to nailing Him to a rugged wooden cross
- Put yourself into this story – try to imagine what the disciples are thinking and feeling right now
- They have chosen to follow Jesus – they believe He is the Messiah, the Christ, the Savior
- Most of the disciples were common, uneducated men
- They grew up in a culture that deferred to and respected the scribes and the Pharisees who had great authority and power in the community

- The disciples were in danger and Jesus knew it, but it was not physical danger He was concerned with
- There is a condition of the heart that leads to a Christian's story going untold – First point – **The Condition**
- **Luke 12:1**
- The disciples were either downplaying their commitment to Christ or were tempted to do so.
- It was becoming unpopular to follow Christ – maybe even risky
- Jesus puts a label on that for us – **hypocrisy**
- Hypocrisy is a character sin, a moral deficiency.
- The word comes from entertainment – actors are not being themselves – they are acting like someone they are not
- Jesus is warning the disciples – the Pharisees have this condition – they are hypocrites – Beware of hypocrisy
- Jesus then explains why it is pointless to try to be someone you are not
- **Luke 12:2-3**
- We cannot hide anything from God
- And He is able to expose us for what we really are
- God is writing a story in your life – and he expects us to tell that story
- If we act like we don't have a God-written story = hypocrisy
- If we act like we have a greater story than God has actually written = hypocrisy
- The **Condition** that leads to Untold Stories is **Hypocrisy**
- Next Jesus gives us the **cause** for hypocrisy
- **Luke 12:4-5**
- Jesus says the cause of hypocrisy is fear – specifically, the fear of man
- It is likely that some of the disciples were afraid of what the Pharisees could do to them
- They accused Jesus of many things, including blasphemy – stoning offence – how safe were the disciples?
- Two things I want you to notice in these verses
- First – Jesus refers to His disciples as His friends
- Have you ever thought about Jesus as your friend? **John 15:14**
You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.

- If your desire is to love God by obeying His commands, then Jesus calls you His friend – doesn't mean you are perfect – just trying to be
- If Jesus is my friend – I want to tell His story in and through my life
- As Jesus' friends, we don't need to be afraid of what people can do to us
- Second thing you should notice - He tells us there is someone we should fear – Fear God the Father
- This really bothers some people – the idea of being afraid of God
- Let me share a story from my life that might help you to understand what Jesus is trying to say
- I was at what used to be called the Wild Animal Park when my kids were small
- I had one of the boys with me and we were walking by an enclosure
- The path was right next to the enclosure and there was bamboo growing that made it so that we couldn't see into the enclosure
- Without warning, there was roar right next to us
- Three feet away from us was full-grown male lion who chose that moment to let us know he was there
- For a moment I was terrified – intellectually, I knew we were safe, but something deep inside of me told me I should be afraid
- It is that innate fear that keeps me from climbing into the lion enclosure and grabbing a lion by the tail
- Because the other end has teeth and claws that have the power to destroy me
- God is infinitely more powerful than that lion, and He is much more dangerous
- Because Jesus is my friend, I have no fear of God's wrath falling on my life
- But that doesn't mean I can grab the lion by the tail without consequence **Hebrews 12-5-6**

And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives."

- God is very patient with His children, but He will not hesitate to discipline us if we need it – I have a healthy fear of that

- Where our story really matters is in ‘has power to cast into hell’
- There are people in all our lives who living their lives pulling the tail of the lion, living in rebellion to God, rejecting His love and grace through forgiveness of sins, who don’t realize the danger they are in
- My story, your story is part of how God is going to help them to see the danger and show them the way of escape
- Some might be tempted to say, my story isn’t that important
- **Luke 12:6-7**
- A copper coin was the least valuable Roman coin – maybe equivalent to a penny – not worth much – most wouldn’t bend down to pick one up on the street
- A sparrow was very common and was considered worthless by most people because they are very small
- The very poorest people would buy them for food
- Jesus says God keeps track of every insignificant, worthless sparrow
- Then says every hair on your head is numbered, not just counted, but numbered – if one falls out – He knows which one it is
- Your story is important to God because you are important to God
- Don’t be afraid of what people will do to you, just live the story of your life in reverent fear of God
- To do anything else is hypocrisy
- Third - Jesus finishes this section with the **cure** to hypocrisy
- **Luke 12:8-9**
- The cure for hypocrisy is **confession**
- Be who you are in front of everyone, regardless of who they are and what the possible consequences might be
- Jesus presents this from both a positive and negative
- We are not told what it means to be confessed or denied before the angels of God
- Some would say this is referring to salvation – I don’t think so – let’s look at a famous denial of Christ
- Turn to **Luke 22**
- This is the accounting of Peter’s infamous denial of Christ on the night He was betrayed
- Jesus predicted that Peter would deny Christ before men

- **Luke 22:54-62**
- Peter denied Christ three times
- Turn back to **Luke 12**
- As Jesus was being falsely accused, beaten, and condemned to die Peter is given three opportunities to confess his allegiance to Christ
- Instead, He denies Him each time
- For those who think verses 8 & 9 speak of salvation – Peter is now lost forever – but wait, there is a verse 10
- **Luke 12:10**
- Even as Christ predicted Peter’s denial, He also promised to restore him **Luke 22:31-32**

And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift *you* as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to *Me*, strengthen your brethren.”

- Simon = Peter
- Peter’s denial was not the end for Peter – there was a way back to the Lord Jesus
- That same way is open to any who have not told the story God has given them **1 John 1:9**

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- There is a sin that Jesus says cannot be forgiven
- This has caused many to worry if they have somehow committed the unforgivable sin
- These words were meant to shock those who were tempted to tone down their witness of Christ
- Earlier the Pharisees had attributed the work of the Holy Spirit through Christ as the work of Satan
- Blaspheme = slander **Harry Ironside**

The one sin that never can be forgiven is the final rejection of the Holy Spirit’s testimony to the Lord Jesus.

- Today, the Holy Spirit testifies to the reality of salvation through Jesus alone
- As a born-again believer of Jesus Christ, you cannot commit the unforgivable sin
- If you are concerned about it, repent, confess your sins – then accept His complete forgiveness and cleansing

- God is writing a story in your life about His Son Jesus Christ working in the life of a Christian
- All your life will provide opportunities to express that story
- As Peter stood by that fire and was asked if he was one of Jesus' followers, he could have simply replied 'Yes' = confessing Christ before men
- Jesus was warning His disciples and us against hypocrisy – calling them to live uncompromising lives in front of other people – including people who would not appreciate their faithful allegiance to Christ
- **Luke 12:11-12**
- Jesus is speaking to His disciples – says, 'when they bring you...'
- All of them ended up in front of religious or government authorities and all but one of them died a martyr for Jesus
- Chances are most of us will not face something like that
- For us, it is more likely going to be a friend, coworker, boss, teacher
- If you are a Christian – be one! Don't make a show of it, just be a Christian unashamedly
- And then if they ask you about your faith, trust the Holy Spirit to speak through you – just let Him say what he wants to say to that person
- Don't think about what might happen – that is the fear of man – trust God and speak
- God is writing a story in your life – it is a good story and it needs to be told
- Every Christian has a story of Christ
- The story of Christ in your life, if left untold, is the story of a wasted, unblest, hypocritical life
- Let His story out of you, and then watch Him do amazing things around you and for you
- **Pray!**