

A Spirit-Sustained Acknowledgment

Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 12:8-12



Big Idea

We must acknowledge Jesus before men if we are to be acknowledged by Jesus on the Last Day. But we have not the resources for such boldness. We cower in fear. We need the Spirit of Christ if we are to acknowledge Christ. And that is precisely what God, in grace, gives.

(1) Requiring the Holy Spirit (vv. 8-9)

When you have truly met and been transformed by Jesus, you cannot keep it partitioned in some safe little corner of your life. It breaks out into all of life. He transforms everything about you. To be a Christian is not just to add an event to your schedule on Sunday mornings, it's to have everything you do radically reoriented by God's gospel and grace. Our big problem in the matter before us, it seems to me, isn't that we don't have boldness. It's that somewhere along the way we stopped praying for it, we stopped pounding on heaven's door in pursuit of it, we became okay without it, we grew comfortable in our timidity and functional denial. Jesus never expected us to have the courage in and of ourselves, but He certainly expects that we should call it down for ourselves from Him.

(2) Receiving the Holy Spirit (v. 10)

The point here is that one sin, one rejection, is more fundamental than the other. I might put it like this: If you reject the Spirit you will have none of the Son—you won't have His forgiveness through the cross, His resurrection power. The Spirit exists to draw you towards the Son. If you reject the Spirit, neither will you receive the Son. But, on the other hand, it is possible to receive the Spirit, the forgiveness of Christ, the life-changing power of union with Him, and still momentarily, in a lapse of faith, surrendering to fear, speak a word against Jesus. But in such cases, the Spirit in you grieves, convicts, leads you to confession, and back to fullness of faith (cf. Eph 4:30).

(3) Resting in the Holy Spirit (vv. 11-12)

So much of our great burdens come from our mind's anxious wandering into tomorrow. If we stop right here, within the confines of today, we find God is enough. But when we go there, when we play the torturous "what if" games, well then we find we can barely get out of bed. But it's not today's burdens, it's tomorrow's that we've pulled back onto ourselves today. And Jesus is saying: "Stop that. Do not be anxious about that. When you get to tomorrow, God will be there with the grace that you need. You can't access that today, because you don't need it for that today." His point, ultimately, is not that you don't need to be responsible, not that prayer, planning and preparation for the future are inherently wrong or unspiritual. His point is that you don't need to be anxious. His point is that God has you!

Reflection Questions



- Are you hesitant to go public with your faith in Christ? Do you have no burning in your heart to make Him known? Do you change your dialect depending on who you are with? Are you more like an amoeba (shifting to whom you're around) than an ambassador (representing Christ wherever you are)? Why? Do you pray for God's help with this? Do you gather with other believers and pray for God's help with this?
- Have you ever been scared that you've committed the unforgivable sin? Why should even the concern that you've committed it be reassurance that you haven't?
- How do you interpret 2 Timothy 2:11-13? Do find this text frightening or reassuring? Explain.
- Has your anxiety over the future been burdening you in the present? Why is it so hard to let tomorrow be "anxious for itself" (Matt 6:34)? How might this text help you let go and rest?