

Luke 12:4-12

⁴“I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. ⁵But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him! ⁶Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. ⁷Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.

⁸“And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, ⁹but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God. ¹⁰And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.¹¹And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, ¹²for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”

Challenge accepted 'Going public'

I acknowledge Jesus publicly...

...Because:

I fear the Father's authority (v4-5)

I know my Father cares (v6-7)

I want the Son's approval (v8-9)

I love the Son's patience with cowards (v10a)

(I won't ignore the Spirit's witness- v10b)

(I rely on the Spirit's help - v11-12)

Discussion questions:

When do you find it hardest to acknowledge Jesus in front of others? How has this passage helped you do that?