



Friends

3-31-19

*This should not be considered negative.
This is to encourage people in a closed
oppressive religious system.*

Luke 12:4 (ESV) **I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do.**

Jesus has clearly demonstrated that HE is the Son of God. In the Last part of C.11 and first part of C.12, Jesus condemns religion; the outward following of rules. In Luke 11:52 Jesus slams the religious, "You have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter yourselves, and you hindered those who were entering." Jesus replaces religion with relationship. Here Jesus makes a revolutionary proclamation to his disciples; HE calls them, "MY friends!" As Friends, Jesus tells us not to fear anyone because they may harm the body, because they will never harm our eternal relationship with God! Plus:

As HIS Friends, Jesus will tell us everything now!
John 15:15 (ESV)

No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

Not negative, but stating God is Supreme

As HIS Friends, Jesus gives us an eternal perspective that God works now and throughout all eternity!

Luke 12:5 (ESV) *+ over every earthly problem.*

But 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!

My question is how the love of God and the FEAR of God coexist?

Proper Fear is healthy. God is protecting us and we want to stay within that protection. Fearing God is being in awe of HIS Majesty. As an example of healthy fear, In the OT God warned the people that they could not come back to their land because of the fear of thorn bushes. *same word - FEAR*

Isaiah 7:25 (ESV)

You will not come there for "fear" of briars and thorns!

FEAR: We don't have to be scared of Thorn bushes because they don't jump out and grab us. But because of a healthy fear, **we do not jump into the thorn bushes.** So a healthy fear of God is not to jump into the thorn bushes that HE shows us.

As HIS Friends, Jesus is saying, "Be in holy awe of God who moves heaven and earth to protect us!"

Psalms 18:6-8 (ESV)

6 In my distress I called upon the LORD;
to my God I cried for help.

From his temple he heard my voice,
and my cry to him reached his ears.

7 Then the earth reeled and rocked;
the foundations also of the mountains trembled
and quaked, because he was angry.

8 Smoke went up from his nostrils,
and devouring fire from his mouth;
glowing coals flamed forth from him.

As HIS Friends, Jesus tells us that we are valuable to God and HE knows all the details of our life!

Luke 12:6-7 (ESV)

⁶ Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. ⁷ Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.

As HIS Friends, Jesus is excited about us and HE wants us to be excited about HIM and tell others!

Luke 12:8-9 (ESV)

⁸ And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, ⁹ but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God.

Very interesting warning:

As HIS Friends, we are never to speak against to the work, power, and operation of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 12:10 (ESV)

And 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.

Many believe this has only to do with not believing Jesus is Savior. However, it seems to be saying more than that. It seems to be addressing people who not only reject Jesus but also reject the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit. Also as a Wallace Mitchell caution: Be discerning, but be extremely cautious about discounting works of the Holy Spirit.

I read a book by a well-known Christian author whose purpose was to prove all the gifts of the Holy Spirit ended in the first century. Then he proceeded to attack all such miraculous claims today. This man is saved, but I also believe he is grieving the Holy Spirit and walking very closely in step with those who are blaspheming the Holy Spirit.

However, As HIS Friends, Jesus says, “With the Holy Spirit we make a great team!”

Luke 12:11–12 (ESV)

¹¹ And when they bring you before the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, ¹² for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.

Believers do not speak against the Holy Spirit. It is the very opposite; believers find that the Spirit speaks through them. The Holy Spirit will bring to mind at that very moment of need what we need to say! What a friend we have in Jesus! Let us Tell others so they may have a friend in Jesus!

John 3:16 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Prophetic Team

Hear from the Holy Spirit to change the current situation or impact the future.