

Re-read **12:4-5**. Who does Jesus say we should not fear?

Who should we fear?

Why?

Re-read **12:6-7**. How does this make you feel?

Re-read **12:8-12**.

You may not be put on trial for being a Christian, but in what situations might you possibly fear people or disown Jesus...

- now?

- in your home country?

What would you say to someone (maybe yourself!) who is scared of the cost of publicly acknowledging Jesus?

The Pharisees and law experts were impressive in the eyes of other people, but God was not pleased with them because they were hypocrites. As followers of Jesus we may face opposition from other people, but God is the one who knows every secret and has ultimate authority.

Reflect... Who is your “audience” as you live your life?

Pray for each other, that we fear God and not people.

Pray for other Christians around the world who may face trials or even death for following Jesus.

When people are big and God is small



Luke's story of Jesus chapter 11:37-12:12



Bible studies 2012

Discuss: Who (or what) do we fear?

The story so far...

So far in Luke's account of Jesus, Jesus' teachings and miracles have amazed everyone. Many people love him, but others do not accept him or his teaching. Jesus is revealed as God's chosen king, but the path ahead for him (and his followers) will not be easy. Now King Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem, where he will eventually be killed.

In today's passage, Jesus is invited to dinner with an impressive religious leader. But things soon get awkward...

What Jesus thinks of religious people

Read **Luke 11:37-54**.

What is the Pharisee's problem with Jesus (v.38)?
(Read **Mark 7:3-4** for some background.)



Pharisees were the strictest Jewish religious sect. They obeyed many religious traditions as well as the Bible.



Experts in the law were Jewish religious leaders, experts in God's Law in the Old Testament of the Bible.

What is Jesus' problem with the Pharisees?
v39

"Woe" is an expression of tragedy, like saying "How terrible for you!"

v40

v41

v42

v43

v44

What is Jesus' problem with the law experts?
v46

v47-51



Abel was the first human being to be murdered (see Genesis 4:8-11).



Zechariah was the last prophet to be mentioned in the Hebrew Old Testament (see 2 Chronicles 24:20-22). He was murdered in the temple.

v52

The Pharisees and law experts respond to Jesus in fierce opposition (11:53-54). Now Jesus speaks to his disciples. **Read Luke 12:1-12.**

How does Jesus sum up the Pharisees' problem (v1)?

Why do you think he uses the word "yeast"?

Re-read **12:2-3**. What do you think this has to do with the Pharisees?

Jesus says everything hidden will be uncovered. How would this make you feel...
- if you are secretly doing something wrong that no one knows about?

- if you have been unjustly accused of doing wrong?