

A CALL TO LOYALTY Luke 12.1-12

As opposition to Jesus mounts, he takes the time to both warn and encourage his disciples and call them to loyalty. The writer Luke wants his readers to think about their own relationship with Jesus, encouraging them and making every effort to ensure that his readers heed those warnings.

WARNINGS FROM JESUS:

1. Don't pretend to be a **DISCIPLE**.
2. Fear God **NOT PEOPLE**.
3. **STAND UP** for Jesus now and he will **STAND UP** for you later.

FOUR TRUTHS THAT HELP US MAINTAIN LOYALTY TO JESUS DURING CHALLENGING TIMES:

1. This isn't **ALL THERE IS**.

"But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him..." v5

2. God **KNOWS** you and **CARES ABOUT** you.

"Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God." v6

3. God **VALUES** you.

"Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows." v7

4. The Holy Spirit will **GUIDE** and **DIRECT** you.

"...for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say." v12

"The truth is that frightened people will never turn the world, because they use too much energy on protection of self. It is the vocation of the baptized, the known and named and unafraid, to make the world whole:

- The unafraid are open to the neighbor, while the frightened are defending themselves from the neighbor.
- The unafraid are generous in the community, while the frightened, in their anxiety, must keep and store and accumulate, to make themselves safe.
- The unafraid commit acts of compassion and mercy, while the frightened do not notice those in need.
- The unafraid are committed to justice for the weak and the poor, while the frightened see them only as threats.
- The unafraid pray in the morning, care through the day, and rejoice at night in thanks and praise, while the frightened are endlessly restless and dissatisfied.

So dear people, each of you: Do not fear! I have called you by name; you are mine!"

— Walter Brueggemann, A Way other than Our Own: Devotions for Lent