



Series Title: "An Introduction to Hope: The Gospel of Luke"
 Message Title: "Stand for Hope"

Date: March 7, 2021
 Teaching: Mark Skinner

Reference: Luke 12:8-12 ESV¹

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.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ And 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, ¹² for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."

Message Summary:

This passage contains great encouragement and serious warnings. The point of verses 8-9 is that Jesus' disciples must make a choice. To acknowledge Jesus means to declare that he is the Messiah and that it is through him that we have access to redemption. Those who do not acknowledge him, who deny him before humankind are denied that access.

These verses also raise questions about whether or not believers can "lose" their salvation. Reformed doctrine states that the elect "shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved (Westminster Confession)."

In verse 10 we see the sin that Jesus describes as unpardonable. Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is deliberately attributing the Spirit's work in Christ to the devil. Those whose hearts have been truly regenerated by the Spirit cannot commit this sin.

In verses 11-12 Jesus tells us that when his followers are brought before authorities because of their faith will be given the words to say by the Holy Spirit.

From these verses we learn that Jesus' followers:

- **know** that Jesus is our one true hope
- **declare** that Jesus is our one true hope
- **trust** the Holy Spirit to defend our true hope

Discussion Questions:

- What does it mean to you to say that Jesus is our only hope?
- Has there been a time when you felt like you took a real risk and stood for Jesus in a public way?
- What did you take away from this message?
- What is one thing you can do to apply the message in your own life?

¹ The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. (2016). (Luke 11:45-54). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles

