



#30

**Theme:** Sleeve and Heart

**Scripture:** Luke 12:2-3 (HCSB)

*“There is nothing covered that won’t be uncovered, nothing hidden that won’t be made known. Therefore whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in an ear in private rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops.”*

**A Thought:** On a very popular morning television program three hosts were bantering about the alleged charges of sexual harassment of a prominent presidential candidate. The male host offered a few comments and was preparing to close the segment when one of the hosts with a smug-like smile opined with bated breath, “Well, we don’t really know what these conservative Christians do behind close doors.” The male host quickly remarked that it is important not to paint broad strokes on any particular group. Of course he is correct. Sadly, her comment was on target. If we like it or not she was talking about you and me. Our faith is not based on what we say but how we live in obedience to our Father in heaven. To wear our faith on our sleeve and not in our heart is to challenge Paul’s admonition in Matthew 6:1 (NIV) *“Be careful not to do your acts of righteousness before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.”* To be clear it is our responsibility to share the Gospel (good news) within ear shot to anyone who wants to hear the truth...1 Peter 3:15-16 (HCSB) *“But set apart the ‘Messiah’ as Lord in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. However, do this with gentleness and respect ...”* Listen, sharing our faith in the public square without living up to our Lord’s will when no one is looking is a no - no! Remember when no one is looking - guess who is? Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

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**Talk to yourself:**

- Look in the mirror - who do you see standing next to you?
- Do you understand what I mean by “sleeve or heart”?
- Who are we when no one is looking? With family? At work? In the car?
- Consider appropriate steps you have to make to walk proudly as a Christian and to be in God’s will...especially when no one is looking.

**Scriptures to read:**

- Matthew 6:1, 7:1-5, 15:7-9; Mark 7:6-8; Luke 13:27, 14:34; Romans 2:1, 2:3, 3:23; 2 Cor. 5:12; Galatians 6:3; Psalm 101:7; Proverbs 26:23-25

**Quote:** Charles Colson, Christian Author, Kingdoms in Conflict

*“As citizens of the Kingdom of God they are to bring God’s standards of righteousness and justice to bear on the Kingdoms of this World.”*

**Bottom Line:**

It’s an indisputable fact that many in the media have an anti-Christian bias. The demonization of Christians is fair play for journalists, entertainers and producers. They call us evangelical loonies, Jesus freaks, Christian nuts and intolerant backwoods fanatics and that’s when they’re being kind. If we know this to be true why don’t we stop being fodder for their liking. We must walk tall, claim the word, know the truth and follow the Lord’s will in our daily lives. The Lord tells us to be conscience of what we say and how we should behave as Christians. Likewise, Peter’s admonition is clear and concise “But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do.” Luke tells us that whatever we say in the dark will be heard in the light and our whispers in private will be heard on the roof tops. Gents, Listen up! Luke’s words are fodder proof.

**NOW.....THAT’S THE BOTTOM LINE.**

Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray

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