

Luke 12:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed;
neither hid, that shall not be known.

Analysis

For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known (οὐδὲν δὲ συγκεκαλυμμένον ἐστὶν ὃ οὐκ ἀποκαλυφθήσεται)—Jesus grounds His warning against hypocrisy in the certainty of divine exposure. The verb synkekallymmenon (συγκεκαλυμμένον, covered/concealed) is a perfect passive participle indicating something currently hidden. Yet the future passive apokalyphthēsetai (ἀποκαλυφθήσεται, shall be revealed) promises inevitable disclosure—from the same root as "apocalypse," meaning unveiling or revelation.

This principle operates both as warning and comfort: warning to hypocrites who think they can maintain appearances indefinitely, comfort to the persecuted whose faithfulness goes unrecognized. The parallel structure emphasizes totality—**nothing** covered will remain hidden, **nothing** secret will stay unknown. God's omniscience guarantees that all pretense will eventually be stripped away. The final judgment will expose every thought, motive, and secret deed (Romans 2:16, 1 Corinthians 4:5, Hebrews 4:13). Hypocrisy is therefore not merely wrong but utterly futile—a doomed strategy that postpones but cannot prevent exposure.

Historical Context

This teaching echoes wisdom literature's emphasis on God's omniscience (Psalm 139:1-12, Proverbs 15:3). In first-century Judaism, honor and shame were central cultural values, making public reputation paramount. The Pharisees cultivated reputations for righteousness through visible piety—public prayers, ostentatious

fasting, conspicuous almsgiving. Jesus repeatedly exposed the disconnect between their public image and private reality (Matthew 23). The early church remembered this warning, understanding that the day of Christ's return would expose all hidden things (1 Corinthians 3:13, Ephesians 5:13). No mask survives the light of God's presence.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the certainty of divine exposure make hypocrisy not only sinful but foolish?
2. What secret sins or hidden motives in your life would you be horrified to have publicly revealed?
3. How should the promise that nothing hidden will remain secret shape Christian integrity in private life?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | |
|----------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|------------|
| οὐδέν | δὲ | συγκεκαλυμμένον | ἐστὶν | ὃ | οὐ |
| nothing | For | covered | there is | that | not |
| G3762 | G1161 | G4780 | G2076 | G3739 | G3756 |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----|----------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| ἀποκαλυφθήσεται | καὶ | κρυπτόν | ὃ | οὐ | γνωσθήσεται |
| be revealed | | neither | hid | that | not |
| G601 | | G2532 | G2927 | G3739 | G3756 |

Additional Cross-References

Mark 4:22 (Parallel theme): For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad.

Luke 8:17 (Parallel theme): For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither any thing hid, that shall not be known and come abroad.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 (Parallel theme): For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

2 Corinthians 5:10 (Parallel theme): For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

1 Corinthians 4:5 (Parallel theme): Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

Romans 2:16 (Parallel theme): In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.