

## THE FREEING OF A CLOSET CHRISTIAN

Text: John 12:42-43, 7:45-53, 19:39-40

### I. THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF A CLOSET CHRISTIAN

- Closet Christian = a Christian who tries to \_\_\_\_\_ his or her faith before the world.
- John 12:42-43: the \_\_\_\_\_ disciples of Jesus:
  - A. They were \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - They “believed” but did not “confess” Christ publicly.
  - B. They were \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - C. They were \_\_\_\_\_ of the Sanhedrin.**
  - D. They were men who were \_\_\_\_\_.**
- Two are identified elsewhere:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (came to Jesus by night);
  - Joseph of Arimathaea
- Three fears in this verse that lead to the closet Christian syndrome:
  - 1. The fear of \_\_\_\_\_**
    - “Chief rulers” had a lot to lose.
  - 2. The fear of \_\_\_\_\_**
    - “Because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him”
    - The Pharisees had nothing but scorn for Jesus; hated Him, wanted Him dead; and mocked anyone who listened to Him (John 7:45-53).
  - 3. The fear of \_\_\_\_\_**
    - “Lest they should be put out of the synagogue”
    - A decree had been circulated by the Pharisees that any person who believed in Jesus would be excommunicated from the synagogue.
    - Application: Satan will persecute us any way he can:
      - Physical harm or death
      - Damage to our \_\_\_\_\_, denial of promotion or advancement, or loss of employment
      - \_\_\_\_\_ or prosecution
      - Scorn of peers, loss of friends, or disapproval of \_\_\_\_\_ members.
      - Antagonism or rejection when we attempt to witness.
- These three fears may all be wrapped up in one term, the fear of \_\_\_\_\_ (Prov. 29:25).

### II. THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF A CLOSET CHRISTIAN

- Four practical points about how to be set free from the closet of fear:
  - 1. Come to the \_\_\_\_\_ (John 19:38-40).**

2. Pray for \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 6:19-20, 1 Jn. 5:14-15).

3. Depend on your \_\_\_\_\_ (Heb. 13:5-6).

4. \_\_\_\_\_ your light and \_\_\_\_\_ your salt (Matt. 5:13-16).

### CONCLUSION

- Question: Are you presently a closet Christian?