

HAVE NO FEAR

Matthew 10:24-39

24 "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant^[a] above his master. 25 It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign^[b] those of his household.

26 "So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. 27 What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. 28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.^[c] 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?^[d] And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30 But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. 32 So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, 33 but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

34 "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. 36 And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. 37 Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

INTRODUCTION:

When Jesus called his disciples and sent them out to carry out his mission - to preach the gospel of the kingdom of God - he warned them that they will face opposition and persecution. This is because the world hates Jesus, and anyone who chooses to follow Jesus will face the same hostility towards their Teacher and Master.

As his followers today, we too are called to proclaim the gospel in our time, and should likewise be ready for persecution. Jesus has not left us to our own devices, but he encourages us to have no fear.

DISCUSS

- 1. God's Truth Will Be Revealed, so Boldly Proclaim (Matthew 10:26-27)**

Jesus encourages His disciples not to fear opposition because God's truth will ultimately be revealed and His Word will come to pass. Therefore, we can boldly proclaim what God has made known to us.

What are some truths God has revealed to us in Scripture that are timely and relevant to our generation and situation which we must boldly proclaim?

2. God Alone Determines Your Eternal Destiny, so Make Him Your First Priority (Matthew 10:28)

Rather than fearing people who can only kill our temporal body, Jesus calls us to fear God, who alone can destroy both soul and body, has authority over our eternal destiny. We can therefore trust in the security of our destiny in God, and make him the first priority in our lives.

What earthly concerns or fears tend to shape your decisions more than your desire to please God?

3. God Regards You as Precious, so Trust in His Providence (Matthew 10:29-31)

God's care extends even to such insignificant things as sparrows and the hair on our head, how much more will he care for his children. We can trust His

providence - that everything is under his sovereign care and control, and that he watches over us in all that happens in our lives.

How does knowing that God sees, values, and cares for you help you face uncertainty, rejection, or hardship?

Pray For:

1. Courage to faithfully follow Jesus

- Pray that God would help us remain faithful to Christ even when obedience is costly, uncomfortable, or misunderstood by others.

2. Boldness to acknowledge Christ before others

- Ask God to give us opportunities and courage to speak about Jesus and live openly as His disciples without fear of rejection.

3. Confidence in God's care and providence

- Pray that we would trust God's sovereign care over our lives, knowing that He values us deeply and holds our future securely in His hands.