

Matthew 10:24–33  
Fight Fear with Fear

**Saturday, August 10, 2024 ▫ Read Matthew 10:24–33**

*Questions from the Scripture text: Who is not above whom (v24a)? Who else is not above whom? What is enough for a disciple (v25)? For a servant? What have they called Whom? How much more will they do that to whom else? What command does Christ conclude from this (v26)? What will happen to everything that is covered? What will happen to everything that is hidden? What were they to do with what Jesus told them in the dark (v27)? What were they to do with what was whispered in the ear? Whom are they not to fear (v28)? What can't those people do? Whom should they fear? What is He able to do? What question does the Lord ask in v29? What doesn't happen to them apart from Whose will? What else is done by Him (v30)? What command does Christ conclude from this (v31)? Why? What must we do with Christ (v32)? Before whom? What will He be doing with us? Before Whom? Where? But what will some be doing with Christ (v33)? Before whom? And what will He be doing with them? Before Whom? Where?*

**How can we resist fear of man?** Matthew 10:24–33 looks forward to the morning sermon in public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these ten verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **fear of God cures fear of man.**

This passage includes three commands not to fear, and divides rather handily into three sections around them.

**Fellowship with Christ ("Do not fear them")** (v24–26). They had already taken to calling Him Beelzebub (9:34, cf. 12:24). So, they shouldn't be surprised when such spiritual accusations are made against them too (cf. v17). The accusations against Christ would culminate in His being delivered up to crucifixion, so it is not surprising that many of the disciples were executed in similar manner, or that thousands of believers have been executed for the faith.

Yet, just as Christ's glory was hidden at the time, but will be majestically revealed later, so also His students and servants appear humble now and will be revealed in glory later (cf. 1Cor 2:7–9; Rom 8:21, 29–30). Do not fear them. They know not what they do, and it will be revealed later! When you are persecuted, enjoy the fellowship that you have with Christ now, in your persecutions. And relish the fellowship that you will have with Him soon, in glory.

**Final Judgment ("Do not fear those who can kill the body")** (v27–28). When we have knowledge of Christ that others need, we mustn't keep it to ourselves or be ashamed of it. After all, there will come a day when those whom we knew, and are then perishing, will know that we had the knowledge that would have prevented it. So, it is important to let them know now—even if they might kill you for it! They cannot kill your soul.

But there is a judgment coming, for which the ungodly will be resurrected unto destruction. They have sinned against God's glory, body and soul (cf. Rom 1:18–23, 3:23) and His glory will be expressed upon them forever, body and soul (v28b; cf. Mk 9:48; 2Th 1:8–9). For the believer, His glory is experienced as favor. For the unbeliever, His glory is experienced as fury. If we fear Him, we will give much more weight to what He has delivered us from than to what they might inflict upon us. And if we love our enemy in fear of God, then we will be urgent even with our enemy to flee the wrath to come.

**Fatherly Care Mediated by Christ's Continual Intercession ("Do not fear therefore")** (v29–33). The Lord changes tone very quickly. v29–31 feel like they belong at the end of ch6, not the middle of ch10. Believers have a Father Who is continually, sovereignly superintending very subatomic particle in creation. Our Father's will governs all, keeping track of every hair on our head. What's more, the Lord Jesus promises that, as we are confessing Him before men, He will be confessing us to His Father (v32, cf. Heb 7:25). Notice that He switches from "your Father" to "My Father." How great is His intercession for us!

But there is one sort of person who cannot take comfort in God's sovereign government, and for whom Christ won't be interceding: the one who denies Christ before men (v33). Even believers like Peter can go through a moment or a season of being ashamed of Christ. But someone whose "Christianity" is undetectable, non-verbal, and hidden from others, has good reason to believe that he is no true Christian at all. What a thing it is to be a Christian, and what consolation they have in the Father, Son, and Spirit! And how sadly this consolation is rejected by those who reject fear of God in Christ for the fear of men. Dear reader, I hope you are enjoying that consolation.

In what sufferings have you had fellowship with Christ? Whom do you know that is in danger of Hell? Before whom are you in danger of concealing Christ? What comfort do you take from Father's care and Christ's intercession?

*Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for giving us such encouragement to fear You, and such strong help against the fear of man. Grant that Your Spirit would communicate to us our fellowship with Christ and comfort us with Father's care and Christ's intercession. And grant that we would interact with others in the awareness that there is a frightful hell to pay for all who remain in themselves and in their sin. Give us to see many brought into the safety and comfort of Christ, we ask in His Name, AMEN!*

**Suggested songs: ARP34C "O Sons and Daughters, Come, Give Ear" or TPH470 "When This Passing World Is Done"**

**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via [hopewellarp.org](http://hopewellarp.org))**

Matthew 10 verses 24-33. These are God's words. And his dipole is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for it is hypo that he be like his teacher and a servant that he be like his master And if they have called the master of the house bills above, how much more will they call those of his household?

Therefore, do not fear them. For there is nothing covered. That will not be revealed and hidden, that will not be known. Whatever I tell you in the dark speak in the light and what you hear in the ear, Preach on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body, but cannot kill the soul.

But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows, sold for a copper coin. And not one of them falls to the ground, apart from your father's will but the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore you are of more value.

Than many sparrows.

So for the reading of gods inspired and inerrant Word. There are. Three reasons given here for us. Not to fear. We have a do not fear them in verse 26. And so there's the first section of not fearing in verses 24 through 26 and then we have a do not fear those who kill the body.

In verses 27 and 28. And then we have a do not fear. Therefore in verse 31, In the last section in verses,

Well, we didn't finish reading. 29-33. Verse 32, therefore whoever confesses me before men. Him. I also will also confess Before my father, who is in heaven? But whoever denies me before men him. I also will deny. Before my father. Who is in heaven?

So, in the first section, Reason not to fear is that we are being identified with Christ. when Jesus was casting out demons, they said by the ruler of demons, he cast out demons. And their hatred and hostility to the Lord Jesus. Demonstrated. That accusation. Is actually going to conclude in them having him executed the Romans.

Execute him as someone who incites crowds with authority that has lifted up against Caesar's. But the Jewish reason for executing him is because they are Considering him to be demonic. But surely who the Lord Jesus actually, is, will be revealed at the last And it will be all the more glorious when that is true.

Well. Similarly, who's the Lord Jesus actually are? If you are his, if he is the master and you are His servant. Who you are and whose you are. Will be revealed at the last. And for you, having been attacked for it, it will be. And that day all the more glorious.

Not only then do we look to be conformed to the character of the Lord. Jesus certainly we do. The will of God is our sanctification that he would be the firstborn among many Brethren. But we will also be conformed to him in his glory. When the sons of God are revealed, when Those whom he has redeemed and Sanctified are exalted together with him.

So this is one great way. In which we are servants. Who will be made like our master And who we are may be hidden for a time. But as verse 26 says, There is nothing covered. That will not be revealed. And hidden that will not be known. So there's that familiarity with Christ that identity with Christ in verses 24 through 26.

But then in verse 27, and 28, there is final judgment. There's final judgment, how sad it would be in the last day. If it were discovered about us, that we knew who Christ was But did not live or speak. As those who know who Christ is. How sad it would be.

For us in the last day. If those whom we had opportunity, To warn about the Wrath that is coming upon them. Were to discover only then that there is wrath coming upon them and never have heard it from us. And to discover in the last day. That we knew and didn't tell them.

Is there anything more hateful? Than to let a neighbor. Pass into hell pass into wrath. With. Living and speaking, in such a way that they must certainly know. That they are under the wrath of God. And indeed, the wrath of God is fearful if we fear Him. If we are living as before him, Unwilling to hide who Christ is and who we are in him.

What Christ's word says, and what that means for us, and for others. If we fear Him, then we will not fear. Those who will even kill the body. It's not like you're telling them will be appreciated. Now, necessarily in many cases, they will hate you and harm you and even murder you kill you for it.

But he says, do not fear those who kill the body, but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear Him. And this means not only for yourself, not To go to hell. But fearing him, who is going to send them to hell. Who is going to visit? Fullness of his of the glory of his Holiness.

Upon all men, either in favor in glory in heaven or in Fury. Inhale, which is referred to as a Lake of Fire. And as a worm, the flame is not quenched and the worm does not die. Jesus, there is here.

Jesus, there is here. Emphasizing that the fury of God is expressed both upon the body and upon the soul. Rather fear Him, who is able to destroy both Soul. And body in. Hell this is why there is a resurrection of the unjust. They have sinned against God as whole persons.

And his Fury. Be expressed on them. His glory will be expressed upon them in Fury. Upon their whole person. And so, there will be that pain that is from the outside. That is never diminished and never ended, and that pain. That will be in the Insight. That is never diminished.

And never ended. So there's the familiarity with Christ, there's the final judgment. And then finally, there is fatherly care. As mediated by the Lord Jesus Christ. Switch. Tone very quickly, doesn't it in verse 29 or we should better say. He switches done. Very quickly are not two sparrows, sold for a copper coin.

Not one of them falls to the ground. Apart from your father's will. And what a sweet reminder that is of the carefulness even to the least of his creatures. With which God cares for his creation. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Which is hard to believe, sometimes looking at.

the shower wall and the shower. Drain catcher and the shower curtain and the shower ledge and the floor outside of the shower and the inside of the trash outside of the shower and the top of the trash outside of the shower and many other places throughout our house where there are hairs all over the place.

And yet God has kept track of those hairs and not just Not just keeping track of those hairs. Like, he keeps track of all The rest of the creation. But keeping track of Believers hairs in particular. Because they belong to those. Who are his own dear children. Indeed, we are as members of the body.

Of his own dear son. Our Lord Jesus Christ. And so he keeps track of us. With the love that he has for Christ. With the delight that he has in Christ, even to the point where Insignificant members of our bodies stray hairs. Are not neglected by the Lord God.

So it's not just he neglects no believer. He neglects no cell. He declared the neglects no part or particle of any believer. So thoroughly. Does he care for us? Do not fear. Therefore, you are of more value than Betty's parents. He says verse 30 and not just as fatherly care.

But his fatherly care mediated by Christ. Therefore whoever confesses me before men him, I will also confess before my father who is in heaven. This isn't just talking about the final judgment. This is talking about is Jesus. Ascends into heaven and his resurrected body and now has taken his seat there and he always lives to do what?

To intercede for us. He is able to save us to the uttermost by the power of his indestructible life, because this is what he continually does. With his resurrected. Everlasting. Life, is he intercedes for us? He confesses us before his father. He continually says they are. Treat them as Bone of my bone and Flesh of my flesh, treat them according to my righteousness.

No, don't just don't pour out your wrath against their sin. You've already poured out your wrath against their sin at my cross. This is what Jesus is continually doing for us. And so, when you think about verse 32 don't just think about oh I had better confess Jesus before men now because later, I will either be Vindicated or destroyed at the Judgment.

That is true. Jesus, is even now confessing us before his father. How could we while he is confessing us there and interceding for us there? Be it denying him or embarrassed of him here? We mustn't do that. And we must beware. Of verse of the warning in verse 33, but whoever denies me.

Before men him, I also will also deny Before my father, who is in heaven?

So that if Christ. Is not all to us. Then we have a Grave and serious indicator. That we are not in him. At all. Now it is possible for Christians. For believers to have moments of denying him. As Peter did. And it was an extended moment. And yet. The overall.

Tenor of Peter's life. The primary disposition of his new nature, which the Lord had given him was that in which he did not deny Christ. Even upon realizing what he had done, he worked bitterly before he did it, he was resolved not to do it after he did it.

He was desirous to be restored. And when the Lord restored him and the spirit Came Upon him in power, he spent a life confessing Christ that ended up with him being crucified and that upside down in his own request. He did not think himself worthy to receive the same end as his master.

And so this does not mean. That if there was a moment, That before you would have resolved, I am going to, I am not going to be ashamed of Christ and after it, if you were ashamed of him in the moment, you were grieved and thankful to be restored to him and even helped in your sanctification by having gone through that, that is not an indication.

That you are unconverted. But if you have a sustained habit of mind and practice in your life, To keep your lips tight about Jesus. Lest you offend men. Or embarrass yourself. Or cost yourself some Earthly good or standing. Or protect yourself from some Earthly pain. If that. He has a discernible policy of your life.

Then you have good reason to think that you're an unbeliever. And you do not have good reason, then. To think that Jesus is in heaven interceding for you. And how sad that would be. To lose such a strengthening comforting. Encouragement for your whole life. To know that Christ is confessing you before the father.

And so, with great, seriousness and And he encourages us here. Not to be ashamed of him before men, but to confess him before men. So, three reasons not to fear our familiarity with Christ or identity with Christ. Final judgment. And then, Fatherly care. Mediated for us in the Our Lord Jesus Christ.

My dear children, I do not want you to live with fear and especially with fear of men for being Christians. As things are going in our nation. And in the church, Those who kill you? One day. May think they are offering service to God. But still do not fear.

Remember. The familiarity that gives you to Christ. For the similarity. Remember the final judgment? And remember God's fatherly care of you. That is mediated by our Lord Jesus. Man, let's pray. Our gracious God in our heavenly father. We are so thankful to you for this passage. Furthest from your son and it tells us of your son.

And in it, he himself. Applies to us the knowledge of him for how we live our lives. In a world that is hostile to And so, please help us by your spirit. To know your son. Our Lord Jesus. And to know you as father in him And to heed the encouragement that he gives us here.

Not to fear men. And Grant that the truths. This portion of your word would be. Written on our hearts in a way that shapes our thoughts. And directs Our Lives. So long as we are in this world. Grant that we ask in Christ's name. Amen.