

The Cure for All Fear

2024.08.11 Morning Sermon in **Matthew 10:24–33**

²⁴“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the Master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they call those of his household! ²⁶Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. ²⁷“Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. ²⁸And 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. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will. ³⁰But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. ³²“Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father Who is in heaven. ³³But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father Who is in heaven.”

Main idea: the bigger that God is to you, the smaller other fearful things will be to you, in many different ways.

Introduction: reminder of the context, “training mission” to prepare Jesus’s disciples for life and ministry in a hostile world without Him. Especially, now, the fearful threats of v16–23. What will enable them to stand before such things? The fear of God. The fear of God that gives weight to Fellowship with Christ, Final Judgment, and Fatherly care.

1. **Fellowship with Christ** (v24–26) “Do not fear them”
 1. Not “above” (v24) but “like” (v25a)
 2. Fellowship in His sufferings: “they have called the Master of the house Beelzebub” (v25), and they will “scourge you in their synagogues” (cf. v17).
 3. Fellowship in His glory: “nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known” (v26). Christ’s glory will be revealed (cf. 1Cor 2:7–9), and so will believers’ glory (cf. Rom 8:21, 29–30).
2. **Final Judgment** (v27–28) “Do not fear those who can kill the body”
 1. Speak to others as those mindful of final judgment. The “And” at the beginning of v28, connects it with v27.
 2. There is a world of condemned people who are not privy to the gospel that you have been told!
 3. They may kill you for telling them.
 4. For fear of God for your own soul AND body (cf. v33), and for fear of God for their own soul and body, speak!
3. **Fatherly Care** (v29–33) “Do not fear therefore”
 1. Our Father’s sovereign care of everything (v29)
 2. Our Father’s sovereign care of us (v30–31)
 3. Christ’s Father’s regard for His intercession (v32, cf. Heb 7:25)
 4. Christ’s Father’s regard for His lack of intercession (v33)

Conclusion: What sweetness and comfort there is in knowing that if it is for Christianity that we are attacked, we have that in fellowship with Christ Himself! What comfort there is in knowing that we will be acquitted and even glorified at the final judgment! What comfort there is in

knowing the holiness and glory of God and yet belonging to Him as dear children in Christ! Live your life on mission for Him, and look to Him for that comfort!

(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)

Matthew 10 verses 24-33. These are God's words. A disciple is not above his teacher. Nor a servant above his master. It is enough for a disciple that he'd be like his teacher. And a servant, like his master. If they have called the master of the House, Beelzebub, How much more will they call those of his household?

Therefore, do not fear. 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 But rather fear Him. Who is able to destroy both soul and body? In hell. Are not too 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. And many sparrows. Therefore whoever confesses me before men him, I will also confess before my father. Who is in heaven? But whoever denies me before men. Him. I also will, I will also deny Before my father. Who is in heaven?

Amen, less ends this reading of gods inspired. And Aaron twerk. We're joists to know that he adds his Blessing both to the reading and to the preaching of it, please be seated.

When we have had a blessed couple of weeks first in Isaiah, And the portrait of the King returning in Zeal for his bride. And the love and power. And yes, even For his glory and for the Vindication of his dear bride, the Vengeance of our Lord Jesus Christ. And then, What many of us found very helpful.

In Psalm 119, verses 81 through 88. And, The word of God for believers who are at the end of their rope. Who have come to an end of themselves, are all used up their eyes, even are used up. Seeking comfort from God in his word and reading and prayer and the Comfort has not yet come And the Lord's Mercy to us, even In that circumstance last week, but we're back in Matthew.

And since there's been a couple of weeks off, we reset the context. Remembering Jesus is about to send his disciples on a training Mission. Uh, and it's uh, Mercy that he would do this for them for as we heard in the last portion that we heard preached just three weeks ago, Uh, they were being sent out as sheep in the midst of wolves and they would be delivered up to councils and scourged in synagogues and they would be even delivered up unto death and in some cases by their own families.

Delivered up unto death. For the purposes of this training Mission, though, you may remember from four weeks ago, The resistance they would receive is when they were welcomed to a house or they found the house of someone who had a reputation as being for Jesus being a worthy person, welcoming of the gospel of Christ and And yet, when they come to the house,

they find that the reputation was more than the reality and they are not so welcome there and their peace returns to themselves.

And so the Lord is sending them out with training wheels. But he is letting them know and he has just let them know in verses. 16 through 23. Uh, that When? He sends them out ultimately to the Nations. That the training wheels are going to come off. And they will be delivered up to councils.

They'll be scourged in synagogues. The state will be against them, the church will be against them, their families. Will be against. There will be a very high cost to pay a very high cost, a very high price to pay I wonder dear children. If you noticed during the reading, There was something that he says, three times.

In Our passage that is before us today. That because it is emphasized in the text by repetition and because it is one of the great themes. In this particular passage we tried in the reading to emphasize, there's three words long, Do you remember it already? The first word was The second word was not.

And I heard the third word. Do not fear. Do not fear. Praise God. He knows that there are things that are frightening. For instance, the wife in First Peter 3, who has a husband who doesn't obey the word and the Lord gives her instruction there for how to submit to him, how to honor him still, as her head, and to do the part of a good wife to him, and then he says that you may not fear that which is terrifying.

Not minimizing the difficulty or the terror. Of having a husband, who disobeys the word, Our God, who has ordained for us that through which we will go. And who knows what it is like for us. He knows our frame that we are, but grass here. One day, go on the next.

How easily and quickly our righteousness is which we just heard. Are not meritorious before God mixed, as they are with our sin, any Garment of righteous behavior that we have is polluted by our remaining sinfulness and the sin that comes from it. He knows what we are like. And so he tells us when we're going through going to go through situations that are fearful.

He doesn't proceed to say, oh those situations are nothing. Oh, it's no big deal. No, he takes the fearfulness of the circumstance. And then he sits next to it. The fearfulness of the glory. Of the God whose we are. The. Even who gives us to call him Our Father.

The God, whose son doesn't just obey in the place of every sinner. Who believes in him? And doesn't just atone for the sin and suffer. The fullness of God's Wrath. In the place of every sinner who would believe in him. But who haven't resurrected and ascended and sat at the right hand of the Majesty on high as Eternal Divine son.

And now the God, man, the mediator. The one who learned obedience by adding to himself Humanity, Pleads by the power of his indestructible life and the worthiness of his shed blood always living to intercede confessing those who are his Not just before your father. But before his father, my father, He says.

And so, yes. The distress is great. And the attack is great. But how much greater is your God? And this is the manner in which the fear of God. Cures the fear of man and it must Because he is going to send these men out to speak to those who are condemned.

Whose bodies and souls. Will be destroyed forever by the expression of the fullness of the glory of God in Fury upon sin. And upon them. Forever. Which they may only Escape. By

believing in the Lord Jesus Christ. A faith that comes by hearing. Hearing those who are sent. So what will enable those disciples then not?

Now when Jesus is still on Earth and in couple weeks time they'll be back together with him. But when he has ascended into heaven and taken his seat, When they are in similar conditions. To the condition that you have been all your Christian Life, dear believer. Or if you are not a Believer, the situation that you will find yourself in when you do believe, To be one who belongs to Jesus Christ in a hostile.

Among those who are. Under condemnation and need to Need to believe before they come. To the last day and the final judgment. What will enable them to stand? What will enable these disciples to stand? What will enable you to stand? The fear of God. The fear of God, which gives infinite weight.

To fellowship with Christ. The God, man. And that's the first thing that the Lord tells them. About their suffering persecution, their fellowship with him. In it, in verse 24-26, but the fear of God that gives weight not just to their fellowship with Christ, But to final judgment. To that judgment before, which all will stand.

The righteous resurrected unto glory in righteousness, and the ungodly resurrected unto judgment and destruction. The fear of God increases for us the weightiness of fellowship with Christ, the waitingists Final judgment. And praise God. The heavy the weightiness. Of God's fatherly care. His fatherly care as our father. Your father And even.

His fatherly care as Christ's father. For those who are his And those whom he confesses. So, in our remaining time, And hearing the word preached this morning. Let us consider more closely the fellowship with Christ in verses 24 through 26. The first do not fear, do not fear them.

The final judgment in verses 27 and 28 the second do not fear, do not fear those who can kill the body. And then God's fatherly care. In verses, 29 through 33, do not fear. Therefore, First. How the fear of God gives way to the fellowship that we have with Christ?

He says a disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. This is one of the things that keeps us too often from living as a Christian or hoping as a Christian, let alone speaking. As a Christian before, those who are unbelievers What will they think of me?

How will they feel about me? Might I lose privileges, might I lose my job? Might they turn against me and attempt to turn others against me? Might they bring me before the court of law? Might they? Even kill me. We are not so often in the last step or the last.

Of those one drinks yet. But do not be. Unaware. Of the history of the world. As if that, which has come perpetually upon Christians in all places through all ages. Is something from which Christians in a post-christian and anti-christian hostile to Christ, America may come upon you. And yet, too often we think, What if they?

Well, take away the what if they And just make it since they, Since they will be irritated since they will be annoyed at me since they will cease to like me since they will begin to despise me since they will speak to others against me. Because your and my desire.

That we would not be despised or rejected or thought ill of or mistreated for the sake of the gospel of Christ is a desire to be above our teacher. It is a desire to be above our master, But we are disciples and we are servants. We should not expect to be treated better than the Lord Jesus Christ.

There has been. And certainly there's a small kernel of Truth. Maybe not a colonel, there's a small. Outskirt of Truth, and the idea that Much of the time. We are giving offense because of our manner because of our sinfulness, because of our pride because of our sensorious Spirit, looking down upon others or self-righteousness.

All of that is true and we should mortify all those things. So that it is Christ. And his identity as God and his claim as king over all the nations. So, he is God, and King over every neighbor, you have and every enemy you have That's offensive. He's going to be offensive or by himself.

And so while there is this, outskirts of Truth in that we by our manner and by our character, and by our own sinfulness must not offend. There is also this strong Central truth. That Christ himself and his divinity and his kingship, and the exclusivity of his gospel. That only, he can atone will offend

And therefore, The closer a disciple, we are of him. The more we'll offend. And there's been in the last few Generations, at least in our nation. The subtle, deceitful lie. That if we would just be Christian enough, By which it starts with humble, which is good and loving, which is good and kind, which is good self-sacrificial, which is good but then you get into things like the 11th and 12th and 13th Commandments.

Thou shalt be nice. Thou shalt be Winsome. Thou shalt shy away from contentious points. That if we just do that enough. Well, if you do 11, 12 and 13 enough, You know, they may like you But you're no longer a disciple and you're no longer a servant. But you will not get the worlds to like you by being more Christian.

It's a lie, the disciple is not above his teacher. The servant is not above his master. And so Jesus is warning them up front. A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher and a servant like his master.

Think about who the teacher is in this case and who the master is, it's Jesus. It is more than you and I deserve it is more than you. And I could hope for or imagine it is part of that Glory that God has prepared for his people that our ears could not hear.

And our eyes could not see and our hearts could not conceive of that. You could be like, Jesus. This is, of course, your desire, as a Christian in your character, and in your conduct, in your fellowship with God, and in your enjoying him, and in the the pleasure that you desire for God to have, when he looks at you, and how the spirit applying to Christ to, you has been transforming you so that he doesn't just call you righteous in your justification.

He doesn't just call you a child in your adoption, but he delights even in what you are becoming in your character. And in your conduct. And we say, oh, if only, I could be like, Jesus, well, do you know what else is to be like Jesus. Advised and rejected, and slandered, and conspired, against and dragged before law in, in state, and in church.

And to be executed, So that the spirit applying this portion of his word, to you, the spirit who, who applied the words of Christ, to the apostles who having been beaten and released went away rejoicing, That they were counted worthy. To suffer. For the name.

Oh, What a glory is there in verse 25? So, understated. So subtle. It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher. And a servant, like his master. Now, they have already said by the prince of demons, he casts out demons, and they're going to in chapter nine.

They're going to say it again in chapter 12 and they're going to call him be illisible. Not just a one-time thing in chapter 9 or chapter 12. Matthew giving us two samples. The implication is

whenever he cast out demons, The Pharisees would start their counter campaign. Do you think in the age of Information Technology?

That this is the first time in human history that those who were at enmity with one, another would not be prepared with their counter information campaigns. How many times do you think it took for Jesus to cast a demon out of someone for the Pharisees to come up with their party line that they would spread immediately after the Deliverance of of whatever demon-possessed person.

It was He says, don't you see? If they have called the master of the House,

Much more will they call those of his household? You know, we are 21st century Americans. We hear the word servant. And we think, maybe a wait, Or maybe with a particular character of human history, we we think of how slaves that In our image or treated as mere property and dirt and are always abused.

We, we don't see in the picture, the household in which there's the master of the House, and there's the wife and the children, but also the servants who are members of the household, For whose Soul's special care was commanded even in the fourth Commandment. That they might be able to keep a Lord's day that they might be able to attend the public worship that they might have the means of Grace and attend upon their creator.

And their Redeemer Something that was not unheard of even in. The, at least the Presbyterian. And other Godly biblical Christian parts of the South which was much more biblical and godly than than it was than it is. Now. And so we're ill prepared to see the the mercy. In verse, 25, the fellowship with the Lord Jesus, in verse 25, we are the servants in his house.

Yes, we are children too, and we're going to come to that in the third section, your father, my father, Where the household then is the household of God and Christ as the elder brother and we are the siblings together with him, knowing father's care for all of us. And knowing that eldest brother is always interceding for us with father.

But just here in verse 25, the picture is Christ as the master of the House. He being willing to own us, we are the deer cared for attended to servants with, whom he willingly identifies himself and unto whom we would be Wicked servants. If we did not identify ourselves with hidden.

Or if we expect it to be treated better, Then. For when the Servants of the house are out doing the public business, they're treated according to the reputation and the honor of the house. You know, everyone would have known. The servant of a nobleman's house. Uh, in Bethlehem or a well-respected Pharisees house in Bethany.

And when that servant was out doing his business, he would be treated in accord, with however, the the person thought of the one in whose house he was a servant.

Well, we live in a world. In which the master of our house is called billsable. And so, as a servant from that house, identified with your master, What do you expect to be called?

And yet there's a sweetness even in being attacked. If it's for the Master's sake. If it's because I'm from house Christ. Of Jesus Christ. If it's, because I'm Christian. As they were first pejoratively as an insult. Called in Antioch. But praise God, this Fellowship is not just in sufferings and persecutions and despisings.

It is a fellowship. The love that people have for Christ for there. Are those who will love him the Delight that people have for Christ for there? Are those who will Delight in him? And even the glory, That Christ will have at the end verse 26. If the Lord Jesus appeared, In his Earthly Ministry as he did or sorry, as he will in the last day.

No one would dare to open their mouths against him. They open their mouths. They would be saying things like mountains. Fall on us, Hills cover us. He for a half second when he was being betrayed, you know. And they're looking, they're trying to identify the right one to execute.

He says I am and they all get knocked down to the ground and he gets him back up and let's try again.

But you know what? Dear believer. If you appeared today, Like you will appear on the last day. Conformed to the glory of Christ. Perfected, not only in Soul. But resurrected in body. None would dare speak against you either. This is what First Corinthians 2 is describing in reference both to whom they crucified and what he is ultimately like and those for whom he was crucified and what they will ultimately be like say if they could have known What?

What God has planned if I could he if here could hear or I could see or heart, could know what God has planned? For those who put their trust in Christ, they would not have crucified. The. Of Glory. And if they were able to see it, They would not speak against.

Or resist or attack. The children of Glory, either. Yet in God's wisdom. Right now. It is covered. It is hidden. Just as Christ's glory was covered and hidden. He says therefore do not fear them. Okay, so verse 26. Is related to verses 24 through 25 by the therefore, Therefore do not fear them for.

So the rest of the logic in verse 26 applies to what's going to happen to them. As they are out in the world as Christ's disciples and Christ's servants. For there is nothing covered. That will not be revealed. And hidden, that will be not being known. They're speaking against Christ.

Throughout his public Ministry. They're raising the crowd, the mob against him, his trial. Succeeding in handing him over to be crucified. None of these things have derailed or slowed down or sent off track. God's timeline, God's plan for revealing the fullness of the glor. Of his son. Was that Glory covered for a time?

Yes, it will absolutely be revealed. Was that Glory hidden for a time? Yes. But it will absolutely be made known. And so it is with you. If you are a genuine Christian, As Romans 8, puts it, We will. Um, we are joint inheritors with Christ. If we are for a Time joint sufferers with him that we may be jointly glorified with him verse 21 of Romans 8.

And then you find out how certain that glorification is when you get to Verses 29 and 30. And he says, Those whom he foreknows, he predestined predestined to what? Predestined to believe, yes, but that's not what it says. Predestined to be justified. Yes, but that's not what it says.

Predestined to walk in an increasing Holiness and the good works that God prepared beforehand for them to walk in. Yes. But that's not what it says. He predestined to be conformed. To the glory. Of his son. Sorry verse 21 was not. Um, The jointly suffering, jointly. Um, Jointly inheriting jointly suffering, jointly glorified verse 21 is the creations longing.

Participate in the glory. Of the freedom of the children of God. But then Romans 8, 29 predestined to be conformed, to the image of his son. So that when we are glorified, he is the

firstborn among many Brethren That means that on the last day, At the resurrection, when we have the Redemption of our bodies and the glory of God's adopted children is revealed.

They will look like his only begotten son. Fellowship with Jesus. Is sweet, just because it's Jesus. Is great and glorious, just because it's Jesus. But God tells us very specifically, How great that Glory will be. Perhaps you have had the experience. Of talking to someone, and We're interacting with someone and whether it's at work or in the community or maybe even in the household.

And you just thought, Do you have any idea who I am?

And maybe not even with pride. What is appropriate to your position? Well, dear believer. I suspect that you have no idea who you are. What we will be has not yet appeared. But we know that when he appears, we will be like him, And so do not fear. When the world has no idea who you are, either.

Because it has no idea who Christ is. And that will be revealed, which is frightful for them because we move from verse 24, through 26, and the greatness of Fellowship with Christ, when considered, in the fear of God, to the greatness of final judgment. When considered in the fear of God, Verse 27 and 28, final judgment.

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. We must.

Speak verse 27. As those who are mindful of final judgment verse 28, again the and at the beginning of verse 28 tells us now not that it is giving the logic of verse 27. But that it is in the context of what is instructed in verse 27, while you speak.

In the light and on the housetops, do not fear those who kill the body. We must speak to others as those who are mindful of this final judgment. This Dreadful judgment. This destroying of both soul and body. May the Lord. Jesus describes hell at one point. As the place where the worm does not die and the flame is not quenched.

Which is to say there is both internal. And external torment, that is forever. We know this. Also, because there is the resurrection of the ungodly for the Judgment. They are not merely going to suffer in their souls forever, they will suffer on their bodies forever. This is only right.

And if you have dealt with your own sin, and maybe you have never dealt with your own sin, never realized it never come to to see your danger before God, then this is the time for you. Because you have sinned against God with your body and your soul. We have not glorified our creator, although he's made evidence of himself visible in all of the creation and even in our own hearts and minds, and we have sinned against him with our souls.

We have desired that all things would honor us and all things would, please us and that we might live, according to our, will rather than the all things would honor him and all things would please him and that all things would be done according to his will, which he has revealed to us in his word, even though the law was written in our hearts, but we corrupt the use of the law written on our hearts.

We even use it to excuse ourselves. We're continually accuses us and so he's given it to us also, in his words and we know the righteous commandment of God, that those who do such things deserve death. But we not only do them but we approve of those who do.

And so the wrath of God is revealed Against all our unrighteousness and are all our ungodliness When Romans 3 says, For all have sinned and fallen Shore to the glory of God. It doesn't mean that there's the standard of righteousness and oh, there are some people who almost made it.

But oh, they fell short of God's glory. No, it means, we were created by the infinitely glorious God for his glory and every single wrong desire, wrong feeling wrong, thought wrong, word, wrong, attitude, wrong resolve, wrong action. Has been against the infinite Glory of God. And we have done that body and soul.

And if we stand before him, Apart, from the righteousness, and sacrifice of Jesus Christ, if you stand before him, apart from the righteousness and sacrifice of Jesus Christ. His glory will be expressed on your body. And his glory will be expressed on your soul. But you will have no righteousness.

And so, his glory will not express itself in favor. Who will Express itself in Fury. Because it's his glory. He is. Holy. He will not compromise who he is, and become Wicked himself. This is why specifically speaking. About those who persecute Believers. 2. Thessalonians 1 says,

We ourselves boast of you among the Churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure. Just manifest evidence of the righteous Judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God for which you also suffer. There's some of that encouragement and worthiness fellowship with Jesus Christ and identified with his kingdom, which right now means suffering.

But later means glory, Since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you and to give you who are troubled rest with us. When the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, Inflaming fire. Taking Vengeance on those who do not know God.

And on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with Everlasting, destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power. When he comes in that day to be glorified in his Saints, The doctrine of Eternal punishment body and soul is despised is spoken against is disbelieved as rationalized away, but it is clearly taught and it is true.

It is the future reality and history of every child of Adam that does not come to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and have his righteousness and forgiveness, if you are not Christ's, it is your future. You will not be away from his presence. There is no such thing.

You will not be away from his glory. There is no such thing. Either, you will be in yourself. And you will suffer Eternal destruction from that presence and Glory or you will be in Christ. And you will be glorified together with him. And this is the binary option. Set before all sinners in the gospel.

Of Jesus Christ. Now. They may kill. You for telling them. But there is a world of condemned people. Who are not privy to the gospel that you have been told. They may have some sense of what they are worthy of. They know they are worthy of death and it does not just mean physical death.

At the end of Romans 1, it means the second death, it means hell. It means the death that God warned Adam about when he says in the day that you eat of it. You shall surely die. Which was not that his physical body would expire. But that God would cease to be his life.

There is a world of condemned people who are not privy to the gospel that you have been told. You have been told in the dark. You have heard it in the ear. But they must hear it in the light. They must hear it from the housetops. When he says, 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 and Hell.

Yes he does mean to some extent, your own soul and your own body. As verse 33 is also going to imply and warn but he means your neighbor's soul and your neighbor's body. Because what they do to you, if you're a Christian, it will be undone. But what will happen to them if they do not become a Christian can never be undone.

And so they may kill you for telling them, but they may go to hell. For you're not telling them. Yes, they will go to hell. Because they have sinned against God. It will be righteous. It will be just But instrumentally. You may also end up being the occasion by which They never hear.

And that too will be revealed in the last day, won't it? How Dreadful would it be? For your neighbor that Hoping to keep liking you. To discover that, you heard it in the And in the, Which you never told them. Now, you may wish to tell them all day every day.

There is wisdom there. We've already been through the Lord's, Lord Jesus's. Instruction on pearls before swine and what is holy to dogs and so forth. But how awful it would be for someone. To have some connection with you in your life. And never to know. That there is a hell.

And never to know. That there is a savior. And never to know that you. Had the Savior. And so, for fear of God, for your own soul, and theirs for your own body and theirs. Speak.

Fellowship with Christ, in light of the fear of God. Final judgment in light of the fear of God, and then Praise God. Fatherly care. In light of the fear of God. What? Transition, or lack thereof. Verse 29. You almost got whiplash. Mentally emotionally. Rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body.

In hell are not two sparrows, sold for a copper coin. You know, if we were You know, the biblical criticism type people would be like, oh, A little bit from the end of chapter six somehow found its way into the middle of chapter 10. Let the Lord, Jesus turns our attention now.

To the fact that if you have him, If you have the sun, you have life, you have the Are not two sparrows, sold for a copper coin and not one of them falls to the ground. Apart from your father's will. I want to ask for a show of hands, but I suspect there are many children in this room.

Who at some point in your life. Have discovered a bird's nest. Somewhere. One. I know, has found twin Bird's nest in the wheel Assemblies of The back wheel Assemblies of her vehicle one on each side. But perhaps you have found a bird's nest with a little bird that was injured or perhaps couldn't fly and tried and fell out and fell to the ground.

I know that at least a couple of times and in our household, we've had a situation like that, one that I can think of. We actually had the windows clean clean enough that it tried to fly through and Was damaged and what does a well? Depends on the child and how much their heart and mind are, you know, have at least the remnant of Of God's restraining, their sinful nature, or being conformed to Christ.

But for the most part, a compassionate child, who Who doesn't need to be rebuked from Proverbs and other places. What does a child do? A poor birdie and run out and bring the

birdie in and and Now, there's Google, praise God. When I was a kid and you're like, it must need worm since I'm digging up words.

You know, how do you resuscitate, a an injured birdie and you find out and you bottle feed it and you pet its beak which it hurts because its beak is wounded and but you just you just love the little birdie. It fell to the Do you think your care for the creature is more than that of the Creator?

Do you not know? That every one of those sparrows. As a Creator, who pays attention. And it doesn't fall to the ground apart from his will. Oh yes, the creation groans and things are wrong and birdies die. And There's animal death and there's human death and there's carnivorousness and which of course God has turned to good, eating meat is not bad, it's even symbolic of the Gospel, so don't dare go vegan.

On me and lose so much richness from From the rest of scripture. But do you not know the care of the Creator for his little creatures? But he's not those sparrow's father. He's your father. If he cares for The Sparrows like that, How much more for the boys and girls and men and women who are created In His image and how much more For those who are united to the Lord, Jesus Christ by faith.

Who are given to be able to say Our Father, As you from birth, have been taught to say, By your parents, calling you to repentance calling you to Faith so that he's not just your father covenantally. Because you're a member of a visible Church bound to God by the blood of Jesus Christ in the age of the New Covenant, but that you come to Faith and you call him Our Father, not just externally covenantally.

But from the heart as one who is United to Jesus in your very soul, you have a shared life with him. That is ministered to you by his Spirit. You now, dwells in you something, your water baptism, can't give you Because you want to come. To. 29 and here not one of them falls to the ground.

Apart from your Father. His fatherly care, Our Father, sovereignly cares for everything, but especially sovereignly cares for those who are his children in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is to his disciples that Jesus teach us to call God his father, not the world. It was his. And he says, but the very hair Of your head are all numbered.

Now, meditating upon this, it was quite challenging for me. The, the Lord has Untold millions of children throughout the History of the church and we pray that. By the time he's done, it will be billions or trillions. We know not how long the Lord Jesus May tarry. I have, but five daughters.

And there are many, many hairs. And, While their hairs are attached to their head, they're more treasured by me. I don't really keep track. I'm not Sovereign or omniscient. I love them. Dearly I want them to look like ladies. The Bible makes a big deal out of that and it does please me when they when they look lovely and they're like corner pillars for Strength and Beauty like the psalm says, But when I find one in a sink, or a brush, or on a bathtub, or in a trash or outside the trash, or plaster to the trash,

Or in the carpet or on a seat or in the keyboard of my computer.

I don't say, oh, It's hair. 13 461.

You see how God combines? His fatherly care. With his omniscience. And he keeps track of. Part of your body. You know, he does that because you're part of Christ's body. This is what

Jesus says of his bride. The church bone of my bone and Flesh of My Flesh. Every one of you Believers is as it were a hair.

Off the head of the Lord Jesus Christ to his father. Or an arm or a finger, whatever. You're precious to Jesus as his own body. You are precious to his father. As a member of Jesus's body. And every part, I remember of you is precious to God with the same love and care.

That he has for his own dear son from all eternity. The very hairs of your head are all numbered do not fear therefore, And then understatement, another wonderful understatement. You are of more value than many sparrows.

Isn't it silly that? Even a pastor in his study could. Just for a fleeting moment. Think I wonder how many sparrows it would take to equal. That's not the point, is it? He values you with the value that he places upon his son. And so bring the fear of God.

The greatness of his glory as the Creator. The exhausting comprehensiveness of his omniscience of his knowing all things. The almighty Sovereign superintending of what happens to every subatomic particle of every moment. And all of that is bent. In fatherly. Love Upon the Christian. Does that not make you at least a little bit forgetful?

Of how fearful the person in front of you, is, Who apart from the resurrecting, grace of the Holy Spirit, will be annoyed at or reject. Or just grin and bear for their own selfish sakes. Whatever you have to say for the Lord Jesus Christ.

And so let us be those who are confessing him before men. Therefore he says Continuing the same thought transitioning with the therefore therefore whoever confesses me before men. Him. I also will confess before. My father, who is in heaven? It is increasingly taking. Less and less to confess Christ before men.

When he says, call me, they And you stick to he and him. And they say why and you say, Because my savior made you. And I love him and I love you more than you know to love yourself. And so since he who made you a, he Is the only hope you have of.

I will call you, he rather than let you go. Participate, and you're going to hell. Or when you say, sorry. I can't take that job. And require me to go on the Lord's day. Can't attend that party. It's too late on a Saturday. Won't go to that event. It'll keep me from the public worship.

Can't participate in an activity like that. I would sin against Jesus. I know one that a seminary. Sorry, I can't write that paper. They require me to sin against you. You'll fail. Yes, but I won't sin against Jesus.

And then, of course there. The other opportunities. Could we have you over for dinner Thursday? Okay. We can. A little bit weird. We've been neighbors for 11 years, you never invited us over. Thank you for the pie when we moved in. Can't remember but I'm sure it tasted good.

They come over Thursday. So we're grateful to God for you as a neighbor. He's done us. A lot of good through you. You've never troubled us. Never harmed us. I want you to know that. We're always there for you. We belong to Jesus and One of the first things that he wants us to be, is good neighbors.

What also occurred to us that you've been our neighbors for 11 years. And we don't even know if you know that there's a hell and that there's a savior

There's much. Sabbath breaking hopeless, neighborless culture, increasingly That will immediately identify you as a Christian. If you just keep the Sabbath and have some hope for which you can give an answer and turn out to be a good neighbor, And we confess the Lord Jesus before, men. And remember Jesus is He's giving them this instruction.

Because they're going on a training mission. That. Is practice for how much more difficult it is going to be, when he ascends and sits at the right hand of the father So when he says, therefore whoever confesses me before men him, I also will confess before. My father who is in heaven.

He's not just talking about the last day. Yes. Uh, he who condemns is Christ, Jesus. As Romans 8 says, but Christ Jesus, who intercedes He's already interceding. Hebrews tells us that he's always interceding. This is what he continually does with his indestructible life. Is intercede for us, says Hebrews 7 verse 25.

And so, when he says him, I will also confess before my father, who is in heaven. He's not talking about pie in the sky by and by he's talking about the resurrected God, man in the sky now, Currently. And how Dreadful it is then when we are ashamed before men, That there would be that simultaneous.

Juxtaposition, Jesus always living to intercede for me. But me almost never confessing him.

In fact, if it is never If my life and my lack of obedience to his law and lack of love for him and brother, and neighbor, if my conduct denies him, if my mouth, never speaks for him at all. Then verse 32 may not be about me. If you have no problem.

Breaking the Sabbath. If you have no problem. With worship that is, according to man's design instead of God's command. If you have no problem with lusting, Massaging the numbers here and there for stealing or massaging, the truth to come. Come away. Looking a little bit better. Making someone else look a little bit more ill.

If every should I say something, Question in your head ends up being reasoned all the way to. No, it would probably be better not to witness this time. You might not be saved. Believers have moments of denying him. And God's mercy to us. One of the most spectacular and memorable is in the same gospel.

But it was not Peter's. Nature. It was not his character. He was already clean as the Lord. Jesus said, when he went to wash their feet and and he says you were all clean. Except not all of you because he knew about about Judas and he was giving that wonderful picture of justification.

The once for all cleansing and yet, sanctification the need for the repeated cleansing of what parts, get dirty and washing Peter's feet. Believer. He believed in Christ, it was given to him of God his regenerate and he was resolved not to deny Christ. He was resolved to die for Christ.

I think we heard about in the Sabbath school. And yet even True Believers who in their new nature in. Christ are committed to him and are resolved to confess him and that is the general tenor of their life. We go. We go through moments when we deny him, don't we?

And our lack of love to him, or Decision to disobey his law, for whatever benefit or pleasure. There seemed like there would be in the moment. A reluctance. To act or speak like a Christian. Those moments of Believers are not what he's talking about here. But if that is not the overall, if confessing him is not the overall tenor of your life.

You might not be someone who can take some comfort from verse 32. In fact, you probably don't. Because you've really in order to take comfort from the fact that Jesus is interceding for you, you need to believe some things about God and Christ, and salvation, and has praised it, and his intercession and his father, listening to him, don't you?

The father notes. Whomever Jesus denies verse 33. Let me bring you back to 32. You notice, he doesn't say your father. Therefore whoever confesses me before men him I will confess before your father who is in heaven. He says, my father. Because Christ's intercession for you. Is on the basis.

Not so much of God's fatherly, love for you. But of God's fatherly, love for him.

His intercession has sway with God. Commensurate with the love of God. The Father for God, the From Everlasting to Everlasting. Without any Interruption. Without any decrease.

What a nonsense, it would be. Children, pay attention for the to the children's catechism. This afternoon this week, what a nonsense it would be to pray in any other name. Or to any other person. When the Prayers to the. As not your father. But his own father. When God has regard for your prayers in Jesus name and through Jesus person, With the regard that he has.

For his son. Like we saw it as baptism. Like, we'll see at the Transfiguration. His beloved Son, his only son, his beloved Son. His son with whom he is, well pleased. Oh, what sweetness and comfort there is And knowing that if it is for Christianity, That you're attacked. Not for who you were outside of Christ.

For who you are in him. And for his sake, his name. If it is for Christianity, that we are attacked. We have that in fellowship with Christ, Well Comfort, there is in knowing that we will be acquitted and even glorified at the final judgment and how sweet it will be.

If there are those who are there. Not being condemned, but glorified with you. And humanly speaking, God gave you to be the instrument. Through which their soul and body were not destroyed forever and ever. What Comfort there is and knowing the Holiness and glory of God. And being able to call him my father, And our father.

And Christ's, father. And knowing that Christ is praying for you in heaven. My father. Live your life. On Mission. For this God, and this Christ. And fear Him. Give him his Jew, the infinite weight of his glory. That the fear of God. Maybe what delivers you From all other fear.

Amen, let's pray.

Thank you, Father.

That while we were still Sinners. Christ died for us. That he died for his enemies. That he by his cross. Destroyed the enmity once for all. That you are just. Called the light to shine out of the darkness. My first.

You are just by your spirit. Now, To make the light of the knowledge. Of your glory to shine in our hearts. In the face of Jesus Christ. Grant that we would know the greatness of your glory. Grant that we would teach our children. Grant that we would have a comfort that is as great as you.

Because you are our comfort through Christ. And whose name we ask it and whose people hear say, Amen.