

Matthew 10:26-42

Whom to Fear (26-31)

- ◆ “So do not be afraid of people. Whatever is now covered up will be uncovered, and every secret will be made known. What I am telling you in the dark you must repeat in broad daylight, and what you have heard in private you must announce from the housetops. Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather be afraid of God, who can destroy both body and soul in hell. For only a penny you can buy two sparrows, yet not one sparrow falls to the ground without your Father's consent. As for you, even the hairs of your head have all been counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth much more than many sparrows!
- ◆ The message here is of fearing not, the disciples were being instructed not to fear anyone they would face on the mission. We too should not be afraid of anyone but God, men can only kill the body but God can destroy both the body and the soul; what makes us fear men the most is fear of death, we're afraid of death, we'll be trying to save our lives. However, whenever we fear someone, let's remind ourselves of these words from Christ of not fearing anyone and quit fearings.
- ◆ Whatever is now covered will be uncovered and every secret will be known, this is a principle of life just like gravity and other principles we've heard of, nothing remains concealed forever. When we try to conceal something, let's also remember that nothing will remain concealed forever. Christ instructed them to go proclaim all that is said to them in the dark and in private.

Confessing and Rejecting Christ (32-33)

- ◆ “Those who declare publicly that they belong to me, I will do the same for them before my Father in heaven. But those who reject me publicly, I will reject before my Father in heaven.
- ◆ If we reject Christ publicly or don't stand on his commands/ways publicly, Christ will also do the same for us before God. The opposite is true. I've noticed a tendency of people to forsake God's ways in public so that they don't appear as too holy, we should be careful of such tendencies and others alike.

Not Peace, but a Sword (34-39)

- ◆ “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the world. No, I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. I came to set sons against their fathers, daughters against their mothers, daughters-in-law against their mothers-in-law; your worst enemies will be the members of your own family. “Those who love their father or mother more than me are not fit to be my disciples; those who love their son or daughter more than me are not fit to be my disciples. Those who do not take up their cross and follow in my steps are not fit to be my disciples. Those who try to gain their own life will lose it; but those who lose their life for my sake will gain it.

- ◆ Wow! Following Christ is not an easy task, it can result in broken relationships. If Christ's ways are divorced to your family ways, there is going to be friction. You'll either choose Christ or your family, if you choose Christ then you do what is contrary to your family and if you choose your family you won't be a disciple of Christ.
- ◆ Those who try to gain their lives will lose it but those who lose their lives for Christ will gain it. If we save our lives by forsaking Christ's ways to please our family and friends we'll lose our lives but if we choose Christ's ways over our family and friends ways we'll gain our lives. There is life in Christ, hence, let's choose Christ.

Rewards (40-42)

- ◆ "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes God's messenger because he is God's messenger, will share in his reward. And whoever welcomes a good man because he is good, will share in his reward. You can be sure that whoever gives even a drink of cold water to one of the least of these my followers because he is my follower, will certainly receive a reward."
- ◆ We are recipients of the gifts that come with things we welcome. If we welcome a goodman, we'll receive goodness. If we welcome Christ's messenger, we welcome Christ, and we welcome God who sent Christ and we'll receive the blessings, love, protection and all other things God has in store for us.