

- A. Fearless in the face of our persecutors (v.26–27)
 - 1. The hidden plan of God will be made known in spite of every attempt to stamp it out (v.27; **Matthew 9:35; 11:25–26; 2 Timothy 2:9**)
 - 2. We don't need to seek vengeance since there is a Judgement Day (v.26; **Luke 12:2–3; Matthew 12:26–37; Romans 12:17–21**)
- B. Apportioning fear in the proper direction (v.28)
 - 1. We should not fear man who has limited reach (**Psalms 118:6; Proverbs 29:25**)
 - 2. We should fear God who is Sovereign over all things (**Ecclesiastes 12:13–14; Proverbs 1:7; 9:10; Hebrews 10:31**)
- C. God's meticulous providence of sparrows indicates our value, which is the foundation of our valiantry (v.29–31)
 - 1. God's meticulous providence over fish, birds, snow, plants, waves, bread, stars, animals, means He governs it all
 - 2. If God provides for lesser creatures (**Psalms 147:8–9**), how much more will God provide for us?
- D. Making a fearless confession for Christ (v.32–33)
 - 1. What we do about Christ here and now will be done to us in heaven (v.32–33)
 - 2. What does a confession of Christ look like? (**Romans 10:9–10**)
 - 3. Why might some refuse to make a public confession of Christ? (**John 12:42–43**)

Sermon Reflections

MATTHEW 10:24–33

"A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant 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 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. 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? 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.

1. What does it mean that "a disciple is not above their teacher"? How does that apply to suffering and persecution?
2. What is it specifically about the claims of Christ that induce the response of persecution toward Christians? Why do you think the world responds as it does?
3. How can we become fearless in the face of persecution? What incentive is there to not retaliate?
4. Why shouldn't we fear threats of physical violence? Why is it wiser to fear God instead?
5. How does God's meticulous providence make us more fearless?
6. What does a confession of Christ look like? Why might some hesitate or be fearful of making such confessions?
7. Of all of the fears mentioned, what are you most susceptible to give in to? Why?