

Matthew 10:24-33 – Unafraid

Huntingdon Missionary Baptist Church – Sunday, March 17, 2024 PM

Context: Jesus just prayed for laborers to enter the white fields

- Three chapters of preaching; two chapters of miracles and signs
- Jesus has called the 12 Apostles and is instructing them to go out on a limited mission to Israel; to replicate His Message & Ministry & Manner.
- Jesus' instruction goes beyond the immediate mission and prepares them for the dangers of spreading the gospel

Matt 10:24-33 – Jesus provides further instruction about dealing with opposition

- Jesus sets expectations
- Jesus addresses fear
- Jesus provides a strong warning

Setting Expectations

Matt 10:24–25 *The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord.* ²⁵ *It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?*

Jesus begins by applying two different known relationships to His followers: student/teacher; servant/lord.

It is enough – sufficient

A successful student becomes like their teacher and servant can never have more than his lord.

- We will not be able to do “better” than Jesus.
- We are dealing with the same kind of people He faced.
- If we will be true to Jesus, we will be treated like Jesus.

Beelzebub – Lord of dung/fly. **A derogatory reference used by the Jews to refer to Satan**

- Don't forget that the Pharisees had now openly called Jesus' work Satanic.

Matt 9:34 *But the Pharisees said, He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils.*

- If Jesus faced such harsh criticism, will the opposition be afraid of us?

This is what it means to be maligned.

Illus: Historically, Christians were accused of cannibalism, incest, atheism, bad for business, and unpatriotic

We aren't called “lovers of Jesus” by our opposition, but “haters of women”, “haters of love”, “intolerant”.

Don't Be Afraid – Part 1

Matt 10:26-27 *Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known.* ²⁷ *What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.* **The “therefore” points back and the “for” points forward.**

Reason 1: This trail was Blazed by our Master.

Opposition can be a sign you are on the right path.

Reason 2: The Message needs to be Heard.

Jesus' identity and message was partially concealed at this point.

- **Matt 8:4** *And Jesus saith unto him, See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.* **This was the leper.**
- **Matt 11:4-6** – John questions the identity of Christ
- **Matt 13:34-35** *All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.*

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- **Caesarea Philippi: Matt 16:20** *Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ. **Jesus' identity was not openly proclaimed until after the crucifixion resurrection.***
- **Peter on Pentecost: Acts 2:36** Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.
This was the first time Jesus was clearly tied into the gospel message and the results were profound.
Acts 4:12 *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*
There is now no other way we can faithfully preach this message apart from the name of Jesus.
This message matters. It is the only way of salvation and we can't be afraid to share it.

Don't Be Afraid 2

Matt 10:28 *And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

Reason 3: They Can't Really Hurt You

They can only reach so far and do so much.

- We are a people whose eternity is built on faith (that which we cannot see).
- For believers, the best part of us (our soul) is perfected, sealed, and untouchable.
- We already know that if time persists, these bodies are bound to decay and go down to the grave... to dust.
- We already believe that we are going to receive new bodies someday.

They can kill your body, but they can't destroy your body and they can't touch your soul.

Kill – to put to death

Destroy – ruin, cause destruction

Illus 1: John Wycliffe, Morning Star of the Reformation – sought to translate the Bible from Latin into English

- He was heavily opposed by the Catholics
- “In the name of God, I defy the Pope and all his laws: and ... if God spare my life, ere many years I will cause the boy that drives the plough to know more of God's law than either you or the Pope.” - Wycliffe
- He was persecuted, but died of natural causes (two strokes) in 1384
- His body was exhumed under order of a Catholic council in 1415, burned and the ashes thrown in the river.

Do you think the resurrection of John Wycliffe is going to be a problem for God?

Ezek 37:3 *And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest.*

They do not hold the power of destroying his body or soul.

We should fear the God who can go beyond killing to destruction of soul and body.

Consider: the message of the cross we have been preaching

Hell is so much worse than anything any man can do.

Why is Jesus telling his disciples this? Put a pin in this thought. Is he preaching that you can lose your salvation?

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Don't Be Afraid 3

Matt 10:29-31 *Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.* ³¹ *Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.*

Farthing – a penny, 1/16 of a day's wage

Sparrows were sold as food to poor people.

Reason 4: You Matter to God

- God's sovereign care extends to the sparrows.

Matt 6:26 *Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?*

- The very hairs of your head are numbered.

This isn't just about intimate knowledge; it is tied to a promise of preservation.

Luke 21:18 *But there shall not an hair of your head perish.*

Not only can man not destroy you, God cares about you and will sovereignly guide and guard your life.

You will not lose a thing by standing for the gospel... ultimately.

Unashamed Allegiance

Matt 10:32-33 *Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.* ³³ *But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.*

We don't want to try to undo the power of this passage by explaining it away.

- We know true believers can falter under persecution. **Illus:** Peter, John Mark

- We also know that true believers will be chastised for sin (**Heb 12:8**)

We see examples of those who faltered repenting and going on to be faithful.

- We know that having this strength to do this requires some spiritual power and maturity.

Illus: Jesus telling the disciples to stay awake and pray

- If you can deny Christ to avoid difficulty and persist in that state, you have good cause to be concerned about the state of your soul.

Judas Iscariot was among those who heard this commissioning message.

When trials come, and they will, there will be a time of proving and testing. Faithfulness matters.