

## Matthew 10:26-31 Fearless Disciples

Introduction: The disciples were to preach. They would be persecuted. They were not to fear their persecutors, Verses 26, 28, 31. Jesus gave three reasons why they should not fear.

- I. Because they would be proven right in the end, Verses 26-27.
  - A. Their message would be rejected by many; they would be laughed at, scorned and physically abused.
    1. The disciples say that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, the Savior.
    2. The persecutors say that He is Beelzebub, a hoax, an impostor.
  - B. In the end it will be proven who is right, Verse 26b. (When Jesus returns as Lord and King – when the elements melt and Jesus forms a new earth – when the disciples are in glory and the rejectors are in hell.) Truth will prevail.
  - C. Therefore the disciples are to spread the gospel, Verse 27.
    1. They have heard in darkness. (Private)
    2. They are to shout from the house tops. (Publicly)
  
- II. Because the persecutors are limited as to what they can do, they could only kill the body, Verse 28.
  - A. Jesus did not promise that the persecutors would not persecute or kill them, but assured the disciples that they could not harm the soul.
    1. Killing was the worse they could do.
    2. They could slander, insult, abuse, and if worse came to worse they could kill.
    3. Then there was nothing more they could do.
  - B. There is One whom they should fear.
    1. They should have a reverential fear of God.
    2. He can destroy both body and soul in hell.
    3. Not that there is any danger of God sending the soul of a disciple to hell.
    4. But He will send the body and soul of the unbeliever to hell.
    5. Once he is there he can never get out.
  - C. There is actually no reason for the disciple to be afraid of death itself.
    1. No reason to fear judgment or hell.
    2. The body in the resurrection will be glorified.
    3. The disciple will spend eternity in bliss.
  
- III. Because God loves His disciples, Verses 29-31
  - A. Sparrows are practically valueless, but God cares for them, Verse 29
  - B. Even the hairs on the head of His disciples are numbered, Verse 30.
  - C. God highly treasures His people, Verse 31. (Whatever He allows to happen to His disciples in this life, He will more than make up for it in the next.)
  - D. He guarantees us the victory.

Conclusion:

1. We are not to fear to spread the gospel to others. Not fear criticism, slander, or death itself.)
2. We need not fear death under any circumstances – not even sickness, accident, etc.
3. We are to spread the gospel with all of our might – to the last breath – to the last dime.
4. We are to let nothing stop us from spreading the gospel.
5. Thus I call upon every disciple to give his life in service to Christ.
6. Thus I call upon every unsaved person to trust Jesus right now.

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