

Gospel of Matthew
“Words of Encouragement”
Matthew 10:24-42

v. 26 – “do not fear them,”

v. 28 – “Do not fear those who kill the body”

v. 31 – “So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.”

In context, the Lord is saying that in the midst of opposition, of persecution, do not fear and want to hide and not confess me.

1. Do not fear – vv. 24-31

2. Confess Jesus before men – vv. 32-39

3. Reward for faithfulness – vv. 40-42

1. Do not fear – vv. 24-31:

vv. 24-25

If our Teacher and Master Jesus suffered, then we too as his disciples are going to suffer.

Mark 3:22

Beelzebul ~ “the prince of demons”

Baal-Zebub ~ “lord of the flies”

Baal-Zebul ~ “Exalted Baal” or “Prince Baal.”

vv. 26-27

Romans 2:16

*** Do not fear, all things will come to light, the truth will be known, all the secrets of men will be known, they will be exposed and God will judge.

v. 28

Romans 8:1 – “Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

John 5:24 – “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”

Mark 8:36-37

v. 29

Seeing how our Father cares and is so attentive of even knowing when a sparrow falls, understand how much He cares for us, and how attentive He is of us.

v. 30

~ The Lord knows everything about us; in fact He knows our circumstances; He knows exactly everything we are going through.

*** Do not fear. He will care for us, as he cares for the sparrows.

v. 31

2. Confess Jesus before men – vv. 32-39:

vv. 32-33

Now confession is not just making a declaration, making a statement, but it is action. It is with our lives, with the way we live, that we confess Him.

*** It is with our confession of Christ that our words must line up with the way we live.

John 12:42-43 – ⁴² “Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³ for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God.”

2 Timothy 1:7-8

Mark 8:38

v. 34

Ephesians 2:14-17

So there will be no peace and a sword will exist between the believer and the non-believer. The believer wants to live in obedience, wants to live in the light. The non-believer lives in disobedience and in rebellion, desiring the things of darkness.

vv. 35-36

v. 37

~ Each one of us has to make a decision to love Jesus above all. Now when we do this is when we will face opposition.

v. 38

~ The cross in this context is the cross of disapproval or displeasure. If we cannot take up this cross and follow Him, we are not worthy of Him.

v. 39

Galatians 2:20

John 12:24-25

We need to die to self in order to take root, grow, mature and have fruit in our lives. In dying to self is how we can be obedient and confess Christ before men.

3. Reward for faithfulness – vv. 40-42:

v. 40

vv. 41-42

~ So it's in giving with the right spirit, the right attitude that brings a reward.

Now it is when we acknowledge, profess Jesus as Lord and Savior that we will receive a full reward. We need to know that rewards are given for faithfulness.

1 Corinthians 15:55-58

Application: What great “Words of Encouragement” Our Lord gives us!

1. Do not fear! We will suffer opposition as well as persecution. But the Lord will care for us. We are more valuable than the sparrows.
2. Do not fear men! Confess Jesus before men. What can man do to me? If you have denied Jesus by words or actions, He wants to forgive you and restore you.
3. When we confess Jesus, our words need to line up with our lives.
4. Our work in the Lord is not in vain. He will reward our faithfulness.