

The Gospel of Matthew

“Fearless Witnesses”
Matthew 10:24-33

Mission of the Twelve

Three Essential Elements:

1. *Perspective* – the harvest is plentiful; the need for compassion for the “lost”
2. *Purpose* – to extend the saving reign of God through Jesus
3. *Expectation* – hostility and opposition as followers of Jesus

Matthew 10:24-33

A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master.

It is enough for the disciple that he become as his teacher, and the slave as his master. If they called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

Therefore do not fear them, for there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.

Matthew 10:24-33

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops.

And do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.

But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Matthew 10:24-33

Therefore do not fear; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Everyone therefore who shall confess Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven.

But whoever shall deny Me before men, I will also deny Him before My Father who is in heaven.

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Fearless Witnesses

Reasons Not to Fear:

1. Jesus Himself endured hostility
 - as disciples, we can expect the same kind of treatment that Jesus received
 - opposition is not a sign of failure but of Christ-likeness

Fearless Witnesses

Reasons Not to Fear:

2. The truth will be revealed
 - all hidden opposition, slander, falsehood will be exposed and His disciples exonerated
 - this reality is to make us both bold in our proclamation and compassionate toward our enemies

Fearless Witnesses

Reasons Not to Fear:

3. God's wrath is worse than man's
 - fear rejection and judgment by God more than rejection and judgment by man
 - man's worst hostility is very limited – he can *only* kill you!

Fearless Witnesses

Reasons Not to Fear:

4. God's providence governs all things
 - God governs the world and our lives minutely with His fatherly care
 - Nothing will befall us apart from the Father's wise and good will