
SERMON NOTES February 26, 2023

Today's notes also available at CCPL.life/Connect

Matthew 10:26-33
Fear that Gives Confidence
Pastor Mike

I. God's perspective on our _____

II. The call to _____ before men

a. _____ as _____ in the darkness

b. Two ways we _____ with Jesus publicly

1. _____ profession through _____

2. _____ profession through _____

We freely talk about the things that _____

III. The fears that can _____

a. The fear of our own _____

b. The fear of _____

IV. The fear in which we find _____

a. Fearing God by seeing him as _____

A proper fear _____ will free us from improper fear _____

b. A picture of _____ of the fear of God

c. The confidence of God's _____

V. _____ with courage and confidence

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. In Matthew 10:28, Jesus calls us to “*fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.*” The Bible talks a lot about “the fear of the Lord,” but it is a hard concept to grasp. Proverbs 9:10 even teaches us that “*the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.*” This isn’t calling us to “be afraid” of God, but something very different.
 - a. How do you understand this “fear of the Lord” that God calls us to? What is it, and how can we nurture it in our lives?
 - b. What factors contribute to us becoming more driven by the fear of man than by the fear of God in our day-to-day actions?
 - c. In your life, can you think of an example of someone who lived with the courage of having such a fear of God that they had no fear of people?

2. In verse 28, Jesus calls us to “*fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell,*” but then in verse 26, he teaches that we should “have no fear of them,” and in verse 31, he says, “fear not.” How does having the fear of God Jesus speaks of in verse 28, lead to the courage and freedom of fear Jesus speaks of in verses 26 and 31?

3. In his message Pastor Mike said that a proper fear of God will free us from an improper fear of men.” What does he mean by that? Does a fear of men reveal that we don’t have a proper fear of God? Why or why not?

4. In Matthew 10:32-33 Jesus tells us, “*Everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.*”
 - a. What does it mean to “acknowledge Christ before men?” What does it mean to “deny Christ before men?”
 - b. The Bible is clear that we are saved by faith in Jesus and his death on the cross and not by works (Eph 2:8-9). If this is not teaching that we have to do the ‘work’ of professing Jesus before men to be saved, then what is it teaching?

5. In his message Pastor Mike said that a basic truth in life is that everyone freely talks about the things that are most important to them.
 - a. Is this always true? Are there any exceptions? Can something be of primary importance to us, and we don’t talk about it? Explain your answer.
 - b. If we always naturally and freely talk about the thing that is most important to us, does that imply that if we don’t talk about our relationship with God with others, that it reveals a God may not be as important to us as we think? Why or why not?

6. In this passage, Jesus challenges us as his followers to have courage and confidence in acknowledging him before men. What would it look like for you to do this in your life this week? What is God calling you to do?