

SERMON NOTES
Matthew 10:24-31

'SO DO NOT BE AFRAID'

1. The Twelve are sent out

- ∅ Jesus sends out the Twelve to be messengers of the King. He prepares them for the joys and sorrows ahead.
- ∅ The Twelve are ordinary men, but an extraordinary mixture. He saw their potential. They were chosen, called and appointed from among the disciples, to be with him and to be the Apostles ('sent ones').
- ∅ Jesus sends them out to proclaim the Kingdom by word and deed:
 - As they have freely received, they must freely give
 - They must concentrate on those who are receptive
 - They must be wise and gentle
- ∅ They must expect persecution, from the State, from religious leaders, and from their families.

2. A Warning and a Privilege (vv24,25)

- ∅ What they do to the teacher, they will do to the students. What they do to the master, they will do to the servants.
 - They called Jesus Beelzebub (devil), so what will they call the members of his household?
- ∅ But it also a privilege to be like the teacher, like the master, members of his household

Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. (Rom 8:17)

3. Freedom from Fear (vv26-31)

- ∅ Three times Jesus tells them not to be afraid
- ∅ First time in v26 is because the truth will out – but make sure it is the true truth from Jesus himself
 - The truth will triumph and every knee shall on day bow before Jesus our Lord
 - Speak out with boldness (v27) – but first listen carefully to Jesus and then pass on his message
- ∅ Second time in v28 is because of the reality of the last judgement:
 - Destruction of soul and body (complete and final separation from God)
 - Holy fear still has a place in proclaiming the gospel
- ∅ Third time in v31 is based on the certainty of the loving care of God for his people:
 - Two sparrows for a penny (or five for two pennies, Luke 12:6) – yet God cares for them, virtually worthless by human reckoning
 - God knows every detail about us, every hair is numbered
 - So take heart, God knows everything about us and will never leave us or forsake us – we are surrounded for ever by his loving care.

In God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? (Psalm 56:11)

Matthew 10:24-31 (NIV)

Jesus said to his disciples:

²⁴ “A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master.

²⁵ It is enough for the student to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebub, how much more the members of his household!

²⁶ “So do not be afraid of them. There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known.

²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs.

²⁸ Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father.

³⁰ And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

³¹ So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

¹ But now, this is what the LORD says—he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:

“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

³ For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;

Isaiah 43:1-3