

DO NOT FEAR THEM

They called Jesus “Beelzebub,” which was slang for Satan and literally meant either “lord of the flies” or “lord of dung.” Either way, it was totally demeaning! Furthermore, Jesus said they would do the same to His disciples. When people call you the most derogatory terms possible, it can be intimidating, if not outright terrifying. But Jesus instructed...

Matthew 10:26 (NKJV)

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

Repeatedly (3 times in this context, v. 26, 28, 31) Jesus says, “do not fear”. When we face this level of intense hostility, the most natural reaction is to be afraid. But Christ tells us not to fear and tells us the basis for conquering fear.

Christ tells us that one day all will be exposed – the good, the bad, and the ugly. On that day when it all comes out, God’s people will be completely vindicated before all. How God’s people were mistreated will be seen for what it was. All will be made to recognize the truth and will be judged accordingly.

Romans 2:16 (NKJV)

16 in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

We don’t have to let fear paralyze us because God knows all and will set the record straight one day. That is a comforting reality. It is an emboldening reality and should cause us to take courage. God has the final say on everything and on everyone. Take courage; in the end it doesn’t really matter what people SAY; what matters is what God says. His ALONE is the final voice of authority.

“Judgment was coming, and those faithful to Christ would be recognized, the truth would be known, and they would be justified before all those who had slandered and persecuted them.”

– *Ed Glasscock*

Revelation 3:9 (NKJV)

9 Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.

Christ further elaborates on the kind of boldness to which He is calling His people. As seen in verse 27 He calls us to be a BOLD testimony!

Matthew 10:27 (NKJV)

27 “Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops.

What Jesus told His disciples in private He now tells them to speak openly. What they had heard in private was now to be preached from the flat housetops. The idea is that FEAR is not to paralyze them from openly proclaiming what Christ had personally taught them. Their message was from Christ and essentially about Christ. And He wants that message gotten out.

Where fear often comes in relates to speaking. We are afraid to speak up, being concerned about how people will respond or react. This is nothing new, and the apostles themselves knew this struggle.

Ephesians 6:19–20 (NKJV)

19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,
20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Whenever I read this, I think that if Paul needed prayer for boldness, I am sure that I do as well. The pressure is not to be bold – to not speak as we ought to speak – as we have been commissioned to do.

As we study the whole context, there is a balance that requires wisdom and discernment for when to speak and when not to speak.

Matt. 7:6 Don’t “cast your pearls before swine”.

Matt. 10:16 “be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.”

Matt. 10:23 “When they persecute you in this city, flee...”

Matt. 10:27 “preach on the housetops.”

Overall, the expectation is that Christ’s people will stand for and speak the truth, and this will get them in trouble with the world. Expect it. It got Jesus in trouble, and we are not above Him.