

GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

CHAPTER 10:26-42

***FEAR GOD NOT MAN AND
PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL !***

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7TH SEPTEMBER 2025



INTRODUCTION

Recap of chapter 10 so far:

- 12 disciples called (v1-4)
- Instructions sending them out (v5-15)
- Warning about persecution (v16-26)

Last time, Stephen's teaching ended at v25, today we continue from v26 to the end of chapter 10.

10:26-28 JESUS TEACHES ABOUT THE FEAR OF GOD

Begins “therefore...” – the results of what has been said previously

- Be prepared for opposition
- Make the gospel message public – shout it from the rooftops
- Don't let the enemy win!



THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Global persecution:

- 380 million Christians worldwide suffer “high levels of persecution”
- 4476 Christians killed for their faith in 2024
- Open Doors maintain a watchlist of the top 50 countries that persecute Christians
- Consider North Korea (number one almost every year since 2002)

NORTH KOREA - PERSECUTION

- Christian's can be killed on the spot
- If not killed, sent to a labour camp
- Severe punishment for simply hearing the gospel or being in contact with a Christian
- Families of Christians punished
- North Korean Christian refugees returned to North Korea
- Family history of Christian faith causes party membership to be withheld

NORTH KOREA – CHURCH RESPONSE

“There is a large underground church. Because you pray, many people are miraculously healed, and they experience God’s power. They have come to faith. The seed of the gospel never dries up”. (one of the 400 000)

“ I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

(1 Cor 12:10)



PREPARATION

How can we be prepared?

- The battle is spiritual – whole armour of God
- Know God – personally and through His word, prayer and fellowship
- Christ has ensured the ultimate victory, but the battle goes on until His return

PREPARATION

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.” (1Pet 5:8-9)

God holds our eternal destiny:

“there is no cure for the fear of man like the fear of God” Spurgeon



VICTORY ASSURED

“It is a great encouragement to all doing Christ’s work that it is a work which shall certainly be done” (Matthew Henry)

“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.Amen.” (Mt 28:18-20).



10:29-31 OUR WORTH

A simple sum:

80 000 to 150 000 hairs per head

Conservatively 600 trillion hairs to number

How many years would that take us at one per second?

10:32-33 CONFESS CHRIST BEFORE MEN

- If we are unwilling to be public about our allegiance to Jesus, we cannot expect Him to be public about His allegiance to us.
- No secret Christians!
- Our lives should be a practical witness

10:34-37 CHRIST BRINGS DIVISION

“Blessed *are* the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” (Mt 5v9)

“and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace” (Eph 6:15)

Yet the gospel requires a single-minded commitment – a message of peace that divides those who accept from those who do not



10:34-37 CHRIST BRINGS DIVISION

“The greatest danger of idolatry comes not from what is bad but what is good – like love in family relationships. The greatest danger to the best comes from the second best” (David Guzik).

10:38-39 TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

- Roman cross meant death
- Justification is a free gift: “Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures” (1 Cor 15:3b-4).
- Sanctification costs everything as we surrender our whole lives to Jesus.

10:40-42 A CUP OF COLD WATER

The value of hospitality offered is not according to the worldly cost but according to the love and affection by which it is given.



WHAT ARE WE TO DO?

- Fear God not man
- We are to expect opposition, even persecution, for sharing the gospel – we must be prepared. We are in a battle but the victory is assured
- Part of that preparation is to know who we are in Jesus – we are of immense value to God, who gave His only Son for us
- Pray for those brothers and sisters who are persecuted

WHAT ARE WE TO DO?

- Our faith is to be made public – no secret Christians!
- The gospel of peace may also bring division. Be steadfast in prayer for those close to us who have not yet accepted Jesus as their saviour. God knows them and loves them.
- And finally, never underestimate small acts of service or kindness you do.