



The Way of Confidence

“But don’t be afraid of those who threaten you. For the time is coming when everything that is covered will be revealed, and all that is secret will be made known to all. What I tell you now in the darkness, shout abroad when daybreak comes. What I whisper in your ear, shout from the housetops for all to hear!

“Don’t be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell. What is the price of two sparrows—one copper coin? But not a single sparrow can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it. And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows.”

Matthew 10:26-31 (NLT)

The Context:

- Jesus is speaking to his disciples about _____ when they stand for him in _____.

The Common Reactions to Trouble:

- “_____” looks to the future and worries about what could happen. It produces _____.
- “_____” looks to the past and grumbles about what has happened. It produces _____.

The Cure:

- Fear the _____, not the things of this _____.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Proverbs 9:10 (NIV)

- Know how _____ you are to God.

You have been bought and paid for by Christ, so you belong to Him...

1 Corinthians 7:23 (TLB)

*My heart is confident in you, O God;
my heart is confident.
No wonder I can sing your praises!*

Psalms 57:7 (NLT)

Discussion Questions

1. Relative to sharing the good news with others, what do you fear the most? What do you suppose can help you mitigate those fears?
2. We will all face some type of persecution at some time in our lives; how will you handle it?
3. With whom can you lovingly share the gospel this week?

Recommended Resources

- *You Are More Than You've Been Told*, by Hosanna Wong
- *Don't Give Up*, by Kyle Idleman
- *Fear Not*, by Max Lucado

(NLT) New Living Translation

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(TLB) The Living Bible

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Matthew 10:26-31 (NLT)

The Context:

- Jesus is speaking to his disciples about persecution when they stand for him in public.

The Common Reactions to Trouble:

- “What if” looks to the future and worries about what could happen. It produces anxiety.
- “If only” looks to the past and grumbles about what has happened. It produces anger.

The Cure:

- Fear the Lord, not the things of this world.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Proverbs 9:10 (NIV)

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