"DON'T FEAR MAN, BUT GOD!"

Matthew 10:26-33
8-11-2024

INTRODUCTION:

All of us at one point or another have feared:
--persecution
--unpopularity
--hardship
--ridicule
--conflict
--confrontation
--rejection
--threats

NOTE: The repeated references to NOT being AFRAID:
"Fear them not" (v. 26)
"Fear not them" (v. 28)
"Fear ye not" (v. 31)

***Don't fear man, but God!**

I. Don't Let the Fear of Man <u>DISCOURAGE</u> You
Because God will vindicate you in the end (v. 26)

II. Don't Let the Fear of Man <u>SILENCE</u> You
But boldly proclaim God's truth for all to hear (v. 27)

III. Don't Let the Fear of Man <u>INTIMIDATE</u> You
Because man does not control your eternal destiny - God does! (v. 28)

IV. Don't Let the Fear of Man <u>DISHEARTEN</u> You
Because God is in sovereign control of your life and cares for you (v. 29-31)

A. He <u>remembers</u> you (v. 29)

B. He <u>knows</u> you (v. 30)

C. He <u>values</u> you (v. 31)

V. Don't Let the Fear of Man <u>EMBARRASS</u> You
--If you deny Christ because of fear, He will deny you! (v. 32-33)
Paul confessed, *"For I am <u>not ashamed</u> of the Gospel of Christ"* (Rom. 1:16)

***"Confess me"* -** to <u>say the same thing</u> about Jesus that the Bible says about Him.

Confession before men is a manifestation of true salvation.

***"Before my Father"* -** Jesus will say of those who testify of him: "Father, they belong to me, they believe in me."

***"Before My Father"* -** Jesus also said that He would confess us before the holy angels of God (Lk. 12:8). Why? So that they will know who to gather up at the Rapture (Mt. 24:31; cp. Mk. 8:38; Lk. 9:26)

We can deny Christ by <u>word</u>, <u>act</u> (*"works"* - Titus 1:16); or by <u>silence</u>.

To be <u>denied</u> by Jesus will be the greatest loss!

For Him to say, *"I do not know them"* or *"They do not belong to me"* will be the height of tragedy.

NOTE: Peter denied Christ (Mt. 26:34, 75) but later repented and then boldly and fearlessly acknowledged Him (Acts 2-5).

The Anabaptist Balthazar Hubmair did the same.

No one is a possessor of Christ who is not a confessor of Christ.

"The fear of man bringeth a snare (a lure into a trap - an eternal trap!) *but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe"* (Prov. 29:25).