



SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

Sermon: **“Have No Fear of Man” (Matthew 10:21-33)**

Date: **October 20, 2019**

In last week’s study, we learned that we can expect persecution and opposition when we faithfully proclaim the gospel in this world. We have been sent out into the world like sheep in the midst of wolves. Thus, we must be wise as serpents and innocent as doves as we seek to build God’s kingdom here on earth. This week, as we continue through Jesus’ commissioning sermon given to his disciples, we will see that although we can expect persecution, we must not fear it. In fact, it is through persecution that the kingdom advances. God sovereignly uses persecution for his good purposes to build his kingdom. Whether we experience persecution in our families or in our society at large, we must be fearless. We must not fear difficult situations and we certainly must not fear man, who can only destroy the body. Rather, we must learn to fear the One who can destroy both body and soul in hell.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read Matthew 10:21-33 and ensure that you’ve listened to Sunday’s sermon.
 - a. In verse 21, Jesus says that division will come to families. What does he mean by this? What is the cause of this kind of division and hostility within families?
 - b. According to verse 22, why does the world hate us as Christians? How does 1 John 3:13 further speak to this reality?
 - c. Jesus commands his disciples to go through all the cities of Israel until the Son of Man comes (v. 23). What is he referring to when he says “until the Son of Man comes”?
 - d. Explain the point that Jesus is making in verses 24-25? How is this an argument from lesser to greater?
 - e. Read verses 26-33 and write down all the reasons that Jesus gives as to why we should not fear men or persecution.
 - f. What is Jesus commanding in verse 27? How can we practically apply this in our day?



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- g. What does verse 28 teach us about fear? What happens to those who fear man more than God?
- h. What does verse 29 teach us about the sovereignty of God?
- i. Explain how Jesus summarizes this section of his sermon in verses 32-33

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. Jesus says in verses 21-22 that his followers will be hated by this world, and even by their own families. Have you ever experienced this? Explain. How can we endure even when we're hated by others?
3. Jesus teaches us that we are hated because of his name (v. 22). How should this affect the way we think about the persecution and opposition that we experience?
4. When persecution comes our way, how should we respond to it? Is it OK for us to flee persecution? Why or why not?
5. In verses 26-33, Jesus gives several reasons as to why we should be fearless. What are they? What reason most stuck out to you? Why?
6. How do verses 32-33 relate to Christ's command in verse 28? How do these verses motivate you to be bold in your gospel witness?