

# Matthew: No Fear of Them

## Discussion Guide for Matthew 10:26-33 on August 23 & 24, 2025 | LC3

### Summary

In this sermon on Matthew 10:26-33, we explore Jesus' instructions to His disciples about fear. Jesus commands His followers not to fear persecution but rather to fear God alone. The passage teaches that while we may face many earthly fears, including persecution for our faith, we should redirect our fear toward God. This proper fear of God leads to peace, knowing that the same God who cares for sparrows cares infinitely more for us.

### Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss Your Word today, we ask that You would help us understand what it means to fear You rightly. Remove our worldly fears and anxieties, replacing them with a holy reverence for You. Open our hearts to hear what You want to whisper to us in this time together, so that we might boldly proclaim Your truth from the rooftops. Guide our conversation and help us apply these truths to our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### Ice Breaker

What was something you were afraid of as a child that you can laugh about now?

### Key Verses

Ecclesiastes 12:14; Psalm 128:1

### Questions

1. Jesus says not to fear those who can kill the body but to fear God who has authority over both body and soul. How does this change your perspective on what you should truly fear?
2. How does knowing that God cares for you more than sparrows affect how you handle anxiety or persecution in your life?
3. What's the difference between simply acknowledging God exists and truly acknowledging Him as described in the sermon?
4. In what areas of your life might you be denying Christ through your actions, words, or priorities?
5. The pastor challenges us to consider if others would have enough evidence to prove we are followers of Jesus. What evidence would people find in your life?
6. How might redirecting our fear from earthly circumstances to God actually lead to greater peace and boldness?
7. The story of Polycarp demonstrates extraordinary faithfulness in the face of persecution. What small step of faithfulness might God be calling you to take this week?

### Life Application

This week, commit to spending at least 30 minutes in quiet time with God on at least three different days. Turn off all distractions, silence your phone, and create space to hear God's whisper. During this time, examine your faith and ask yourself if your thoughts, words, and behaviors truly acknowledge Jesus as Lord. Consider specific areas where you can more boldly proclaim your faith and align your life with God's will. Write down what God reveals to you in these quiet moments and be prepared to share one insight with the group next time.

### Key Takeaways

1. We should fear God who has authority over both body and soul, rather than fearing persecution or earthly circumstances.
2. God's care extends to the smallest details of our lives—if He cares for sparrows, He cares infinitely more for us.
3. To acknowledge Jesus means more than believing He exists; it means aligning our entire lives with His will and purposes.
4. When our fear is properly directed toward God, we can experience peace even in the midst of persecution or difficult circumstances.

### Ending Prayer

Lord God, we stand in awe of Your power and authority, yet find comfort in Your tender care for us. Help us to fear You rightly—not with terror, but with reverent submission to Your perfect will. Give us courage to acknowledge You boldly before others, even when it might bring persecution or discomfort. May we create space in our busy lives to hear Your whisper, and then proclaim Your truth without fear. Thank You for valuing us more than sparrows and for numbering the very hairs on our heads. As we go from here, may our lives be evidence of our allegiance to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.