



# **SUNDAY SPECIALS**

## **Why Do You Fear People?**

**Opening prayer**

**Prayer for the millennial generation:**

Here

## **Prayer for a local church:**

This morning we pray for our brother Sabo Cortez and Covenant Grace Church.

## **Closing prayer**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Does the gospel make you nervous? Or rather, does sharing the gospel with someone make you nervous? Well, most normal human beings will answer yes, unless you lack some basic social sensitivity due to the fall.

Jesus addresses the fear of social ostracism, the fear of being rejected. As a matter of fact, he says that many people will leave Christianity because of social pressure. **“And you will be hated by all for my name’s sake.”** That’s not the kind of promise that most daily devotional subscriptions send out. “Good morning, prepare for some hatred today.” Where’s that unsubscribe button?

Today we’re going to look at the words of Jesus in the gospel of Matthew about this subject of fearing people.

**Big Idea:** Christians reach people.

## **Matthew 10:25**

**<sup>25</sup> It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.**

# 1 Point #1 - Many will stop following Christ to avoid social rejection.

Soon after Jesus said this, he told them that “the one who endures to the end will be saved.” The implication is that many will stop following Jesus because they fear being rejected by people. That’s why he also gave us this reminder: **“If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul (another name for Satan), how much more will they malign those of his**

**household?”** In other words, if people accused Jesus of being demonic, then they will surely accuse his followers of being demonic.

This is a day in which Christians are again accused of being devils along the lines of bigots and racists and oppressors, etc. because we do not bow to the cultural norms or the idol of the sexual revolution. But Jesus tells us not to fear our fellow human beings...

**26 “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known.**

- Children and lying

**27 What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. 28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a**

**penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup> But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup> Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.**

**2 | Point #2 - We shouldn't be shy about the gospel.**

We needn't fear anyone because Truth will one day be revealed. And that's the motivation he gives us to share the gospel unashamedly.



**“What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops.”** Jesus says we shouldn’t be shy about the gospel message. This doesn’t mean we should be obnoxious, but we don’t have to shy away from a friendly gospel conversation with those who are open. **“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”**

Jesus used both positive and negative motivators. In short, we should fear God more than any human being, because history is leading to the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Jesus gives us these motivators because he knows us. He knows any normal Christian is going to be nervous about sharing the gospel. But because we know it's the Truth and because we know he's the way, the truth and the life and that no one comes to the Father except through him, we can push through our fear and speak about Jesus.

**<sup>32</sup> So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, <sup>33</sup> but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.**

In several different passages, Jesus teaches that our lips are good indicators of what's going on in our souls. If we truly believe he is Lord of all and that he came to give his life as a ransom for many, then we'll speak to others about their only hope for rescue from every kind of affliction in this

life (Matthew 10:1), but also rescue from a Christless eternity.

## **Matthew 10:40**

**40 “Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me.**

**3 Point #3 - Look for people who are open.**

He never instructs us to look for arguments. He instructs us to look for people who are open to what we have to say about sin and redemption. **“Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me.”**

Look for people who receive you. But that is the question — are you intentionally looking for people? That’s what it means to “go and preach the gospel to all creation.”

Christians cannot be Great Commission Christians without being so intentionally. That's why Jesus gives us these motivations.

If you feel like motivations is too salesmany a word, then just look upon these statements of Jesus as the truth. If truth doesn't motivate you, then I don't know what will.

**4 Point #4 - Evangelism is intentional or it doesn't happen.**

Personally, I have a five-prong approach to evangelism, based upon the simple words of Jesus.

## **Mark 16:15**

**15 And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.**

Go into all the world — so it’s not hard to find your ministry — anywhere. So, go anywhere find anyone who is open and share the gospel.

Now, go and preach the gospel to all creation is a command given to the entire church, thus every Christian, which includes you and me.

## **Matthew 9:37**

**37 Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;**

There are plenty of people out there God wants to reach, but few Christians are intentionally trying to reach them. That’s the negative. What’s the



positive? There are people out there that we can reach.

## **2 Corinthians 9:6**

**6 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.**

Sharing the gospel with a couple people each year isn't really sowing bountifully, so we can't expect much return on that kind of investment.

The positives: there's a lot of people out there who are open to the gospel and if we talk to enough of them we'll save some.

Now, based upon just those three biblical truths I try to implement these areas of evangelism in my life.

1. Direct evangelism — Go and tell
2. Radical hospitality — Go and tell
3. Invitation — Come and see
4. Community Involvement — Go and tell
5. Planned Events — Come and see

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