

Living for Jesus in a hostile world: Fearless lovers

We've been working our way through Matthew 9&10 in our morning meetings, thinking about what it means to faithfully follow Jesus in a hostile world.



Matthew 10:26-end

Peter began by mentioning our current agenda as a church as we enter a time of prayer (and later fasting!) to seek the Lord's face for the future of MRC. He mentioned how appropriate time in Matt 10 is as it acts as training for an outward looking life. But we mustn't expect to be friends with the world.

The key question from the passage was, in order to live in a Matthew 10 way – which of our faculties needs to be strongest? Our will? No – we're guided & shaped by deeper things than the surface decisions that we make. Our mind? Yes but more than that.

The answer is our heart – our emotions, our affections. Matthew 10 says we need big hearts. In 2 dimensions:
1) to conquer our fears: 3x do not be afraid of 'them'. Them? people who say we are devil incarnate. The time will come when you need to shout out the truth to all... Do not be afraid of harm – don't fear that. There is a greater deeper fear (of God) to drive out the superficial fear.

Don't be afraid, because you can call God Father. He cares about you more than sparrows! Not the promise of no fall – the promise of not being separated from your Father.

2) Our desires – what we love.
a. Firstly we're to love him – even more than family. Kids thrive when they know God is first in the family.
b. Give my life away completely & you find life. Keep it & you lose it.
c. Love real true rewards – not just blessing in itself is you will receive a reward from God.

Have a big heart says Jesus – one that will stand & not be afraid.

Here are some possible thoughts and questions.
Please be selective and adapt them for your group:

Possible Questions

What do you remember from previous studies?
What has struck you most so far?

Why does your 'heart' matter so much? How can you nurture it?

What things does Jesus say not to fear? Why?
What are we to fear? Why?

What things are we to love? Why?

What 2 things can you take away from this study? Share them with the group and pray for each other.