



5 Daily Devotionals (From September 6th Sermon)

Day 1 — Fear Not

Key Verse:

“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known.” — Matthew 10:26

Reflection

Jesus never promised His disciples that following Him would be easy. In Matthew 10, He tells them plainly that they will face opposition, rejection, and even persecution. Yet His first command is simple: “**Have no fear.**”

Fear often takes over when we realize we are not in control. We don't know how someone will respond. We don't know what the future holds. We don't know what might happen if we speak openly about our faith.

But Jesus reminds us that we don't have to know everything because **He does.**

God sees what is hidden. He knows the truth when others misunderstand. He knows your motives, your struggles, your faithfulness, and your desire to serve Him. One day, everything will be brought into the light.

So don't let fear silence you. The Gospel is still the life-giving message the world needs. We can speak the truth with humility and love because our confidence is not in how people respond.

Our confidence is in Christ.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, when fear makes me want to remain silent, remind me that You are with me. Give me courage to speak Your truth with humility, love, and confidence. Amen.

Day 2 — God Sees the Whole Story

Key Verse:

“Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.” — Matthew 10:28

Reflection

Have you ever wished someone could see the whole story?

Maybe someone misunderstood you. Maybe you were falsely accused. Maybe your efforts were overlooked. Sometimes we desperately want vindication—we want people to know that our intentions were good and that we were trying to do what was right.

Jesus gives us something better than temporary vindication: **the promise that God sees everything.**

There is nothing hidden from Him. The things people don't understand, God understands. The sacrifices nobody notices, God notices. The conversations you had because you genuinely cared about someone's soul—God saw them.

Jesus also gives us an eternal perspective. People may be able to hurt our bodies, reputations, careers, or relationships. But they cannot take away what ultimately matters: the salvation Christ has won for us.

At the cross, Jesus endured rejection, injustice, suffering, and death Himself. He knows what it means to suffer unjustly. And because He rose again, death is not the end for those who trust in Him.

You don't have to win every argument or prove yourself to everyone. **God knows the whole story.**

Application

Is there a situation where you're desperate to be understood or vindicated? Entrust it to God today. Ask Him for patience and faithfulness rather than the need to control what others think.

Day 3 — You Are Seen and Known

Key Verse:

“Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.” — Matthew 10:31

Reflection

Jesus makes a remarkable point with something incredibly ordinary: sparrows.

They were inexpensive and seemingly insignificant. Yet Jesus says that not even one falls to the ground apart from the Father's care. Then He makes it personal: **“You are of more value than many sparrows.”**

God doesn't merely know that you exist. He knows you intimately.

He knows your struggles, your worries, your relationships, your financial concerns, your disappointments, and the things you haven't told anyone else. He even knows the number of hairs on your head.

And knowing everything about you hasn't caused Him to abandon you.

The Gospel is even more astonishing. God knows not only our good intentions but also our sin. He knows our selfishness, our fears, our failures, and the times we've remained silent when we should have spoken. Yet He sent His Son to save sinners.

You are not loved because you have everything together. **You are loved because God has chosen to love you in Christ.**

When fear tells you that you're alone, remember: the God who sees everything also sees **you**.

Prayer

Father, thank You for knowing me completely and loving me still. When I feel forgotten or overwhelmed, remind me that I am never outside Your care. Help me trust Your promises today. Amen.

Day 4 — Put Christ First

Key Verse:

“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.” — Matthew 10:37

Reflection

Some of Jesus' hardest words are found in Matthew 10. He says He did not come to bring earthly peace, but a sword. Following Him can create division—even within families.

Jesus isn't telling us to stop loving our families. Scripture repeatedly commands us to love, serve, forgive, and care for one another. Instead, Jesus is reminding us that **no relationship can take the place of God.**

We can love our spouse, children, parents, friends, careers, possessions, and dreams. But when something we love comes into conflict with God's Word, we face a choice: **Who comes first?**

Putting Christ first doesn't mean becoming harsh or unloving. In fact, it enables us to love others more faithfully. Because we love Christ first, we can speak truth with compassion, forgive when it is difficult, repent when we are wrong, and refuse to compromise God's Word simply to keep everyone happy.

The world tells us that keeping peace at any cost is the highest good. Jesus tells us something different: **faithfulness to Him matters more.**

We aren't saved because we perfectly prioritize God. We are saved by God's grace through faith in Christ. And that grace gives us strength to follow Him.

Application

Ask yourself today: **Is there anything I would be unwilling to surrender if Jesus asked me to?** Bring that honestly before God and ask Him to help you love Him above everything else.

Day 5 — There Is Still Work to Do

Key Verse:

“Whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.” — Matthew 10:42

Reflection

If you're still here, God isn't finished with you.

That doesn't mean you have to accomplish something extraordinary. Jesus describes something as simple as giving a cup of cold water to someone who serves Him. God sees even the small acts of faithfulness that other people overlook.

The Gospel doesn't depend on our accomplishments. **Christ has already accomplished our salvation.** His death paid for our sins, and His resurrection secured our hope of eternal life. We don't earn heaven by our service.

But because Christ has saved us, we have a purpose while we are here.

There are people who need to hear about Jesus. There are friends who need encouragement. There are family members who need prayer. There are neighbors who need an invitation. There are hurting people who need to hear that forgiveness and peace are found in Christ.

We don't control the harvest. We don't change hearts. **God does that work.**

Our calling is simply to be faithful—to open our mouths, share the Gospel, love people, and trust God with the results.

So don't shrink back because you're afraid of rejection. Don't assume someone else will do it. If God has placed someone in your life, perhaps that relationship is one of the reasons He has you here today.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for saving me by Your grace. Give me courage to be faithful with the opportunities You place before me. Help me see the people around me with compassion and boldly share the hope I have in You. Amen.

FEAR NOT—FOLLOW JESUS

Matthew 10:26–42

Opening Question

What is something you were once afraid to do, but became easier once you knew someone was with you?

The Big Idea

Following Jesus does not mean we will avoid opposition, hardship, or difficult choices. Jesus calls us to **fear God more than people, trust His care, confess Him faithfully, and keep Him first—even when following Him is costly.**

Key Verse

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

— Matthew 10:26

Read Together

Matthew 10:26–42

Supporting Scriptures:

- **Isaiah 41:10** — God strengthens and helps His people.
- **Psalms 56:3–4** — “When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.”
- **Romans 8:38–39** — Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ.
- **1 Peter 3:15** — Be ready to give an answer for the hope within you.
- **Hebrews 12:1–2** — Run with endurance, looking to Jesus.

DISCUSS

1. “Have no fear”

Jesus tells His disciples not to fear those who can hurt the body but cannot destroy the soul.

What kinds of people, situations, or consequences most tempt you to remain silent about your faith?

2. God knows you completely.

Jesus says that even the hairs of our heads are numbered and that we are worth more than many sparrows.

How does knowing that God sees, knows, and cares for you change the way you face fear or uncertainty?

3. Confessing Christ

Jesus says, "Everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father."

What might it look like to acknowledge Jesus naturally and faithfully in your everyday life?

4. When faith creates conflict

Jesus warns that following Him can sometimes create division, even within families.

Why can putting Christ first be difficult? How can we remain faithful to God's Word while still loving and caring for people who disagree with us?

5. Faithfulness, not performance

Our salvation is not earned by how boldly we speak, how much we serve, or how well we perform. We are saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

How does this truth free you to serve and witness without feeling that everything depends on you?

THIS WEEK

Identify **one person** who needs the hope of Christ. Pray for that person each day, and ask God for an opportunity to show Christ's love or speak about your faith.

Remember: God is responsible for the harvest. Our calling is to remain faithful, trust His promises, and faithfully point people to Jesus.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank You for sending Jesus to rescue us from sin and death. When we are afraid, remind us that our lives and our eternity are in Your hands. Give us courage to confess Christ, wisdom to speak the truth in love, and compassion for those who do not yet know You. Help us put You first in every relationship and every decision. Keep us steadfast in faith and continually draw us back to Jesus, whose death and resurrection give us forgiveness and eternal life. In Jesus' name, Amen.