

Pastor David Anglada' Message Outline

Grace Lutheran Church and School

Malverne, New York

[www.glcas.org](http://www.glcas.org)

"Don't Be Afraid of The Future" Matthew 10:24-39

**3rd Sunday after Pentecost**

Sunday, June 21

The holy Gospel according to **Matthew 10:24-39**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

24 "A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; 25 it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! 26 "So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. 27 What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. 28 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 one of them will fall to the ground apart of your head are all counted. 31 So do not be sparrows. 32 "Everyone therefore who will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; I also will deny before my Father in heaven. 34 peace to the earth; I have not come to bring  
33 but whoever denies me before others, "Do not think that I have come to bring  
35 For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; 36 and one's foes will be members of one's own household. 37 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; 38 and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.<sup>1</sup>



The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:**

Terrifying Word, Life-giving Word, sanctifying Word, come to us as ones who crave water in the desert.

Several childhood memories are recorded in my memory banks. One of them is having nightmares, when I was about four or five years old. My mother would hear my screaming and would come to my bedside; would start singing " Jesus loves the little children. All the children of the world. Afterward, she would say, do not be afraid. I am here with you; do not be scared. Within minutes I was falling asleep.

In our assigned gospel text today, Jesus is communicating difficult plus problematic expressions with his disciples. Jesus is inviting his disciples to share his fate. This requires not merely social exclusion and the loss of family but active hostility to the point of death.

However, Jesus promises them that he will be with them and care for them. In essence, Jesus tells his disciples **not to be afraid of the present and the future.** Moreover, the disciples will find comfort and care in the hands of God. Our blessed Lords communicates the following:

The disciple will also expect to face opposition in addition to persecution.

Jesus communicates that a disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his Lord. Jesus also enlightens them that he is not over them that they are privileged to be like him. Jesus is forming his disciples as equal partners in ministry. There is no dichotomy between the disciples and Jesus.

Jesus continues by expressing to his disciples the following, look, you will be accused of being influenced by demonic powers as they have charged or accused me. In other words, if Jesus was ignored, insulted, misjudged, abandoned, betrayed, tortured, and crucified, then those who follow him—that is his disciples should not expect better treatment.<sup>2</sup>

Jesus says the following "If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!" Beelzebub was a Philistine god whose name meant "Lord of the house," Beelzebub fills the role of Satan in our text today. Another possible meaning of the name is "Lord of the dwelling or the underworld."<sup>3</sup>

Jesus carries on by telling his students do not be afraid of them. Fear in the face of persecution is natural, but Jesus gives them a promise.

All that is hidden will be revealed or known to you: Evil people love darkness because it hides their evil deeds. They conspire in secret to hinder the good. But the Lord will bring to light the hidden things of darkness.

The second promise Jesus gives them is, do not allow fear to overcome you, they can kill the body, which will die soon anyway, but they have no power over the soul. Only God has power/control over eternity.

Only fear God who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. Gehenna was the place in the Hebrew Scriptures where the wicked were punished. Also, a place to burn rubbish outside Jerusalem.

The third promise is if God cares even about the sparrows, they are not worth much money less than a penny; God will take care of you. Nothing happens in the world without the knowledge of God, and God will make provision for you. God knows all the hairs of your head. This is used as a metaphor for something too numerous to be counted. Therefore, do not be afraid, you are of more value than many sparrows.<sup>4</sup>

Our text ends with Jesus telling his disciples that discipleship will be difficult because the kingdom of God will bring us in direct opposition with the world what more with our family members. "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's foes will be members of one's own household. 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; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

We can expect conflict with friends and loved ones when we begin to embrace the teachings of Jesus Christ as a lifestyle. Your friends, including your family members, may not be content with you when you start loving your next-door neighbor, as well as the stranger as yourself.

The radical teachings of Jesus will separate you from loved ones along with friends because the teaching of Jesus goes against hate, racism homophobia, including misogyny. Your acquaintances or your circle of influences in your life may not accept the teachings of Jesus. Furthermore, many will turn against you when you embrace the transformative power of love instead of hate.

People of God do not be afraid, I know we are living in a difficult season in our lives, but Gospel promises that God is with us.

Let us embrace the prophetic voices of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who stood up against the hate racism of Adolf Hitler, like Martin Luther King Jr., who lifted his voice against racial injustice and Oscar Romero, who sided with the poor and oppressed in El Salvador and Latin America. All three choose to live their lives without fear. They become prophetic voices of liberation in our world.<sup>5</sup>

They spoke truth to power. Dietrich, Martin as well as Oscar lifted their voices on behalf of disfranchised people of the world. During their lifetime, they were threatened, harassed, as well as accused of being anti-establishment, anti-government coupled with being anti-church.

They all have one thing in common; they all died as martyrs of the church because of their commitment to authentic discipleship or, better yet, to the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Discipleship is not easy; discipleship challenges us to the very core of our beings.

Beloved in the Lord today, we may all feel more distant and isolated than usual, but every day we are reminded of God's providence along with God's goodness in our lives. Equally important, the kindness of people and the resilience of the church community.

My good brothers and sisters, following Jesus, including the call to discipleship, is a risky business. I am aware that; discipleship is challenging. But thanks be to God, that God empowers us to be the disciples of Jesus.

The Good News today is that God is with us; the promises of the Gospel has been given to each one of us. If Jesus said it, we surely could trust his Word, so do not be afraid of today and tomorrow. God is with us; God has not abandoned us; God will take care of us. People of God do not be afraid of today, as well as tomorrow; God is with us. Remember.

Jesus loves the little children  
All the children of the world  
Red and yellow, black, brown, and white  
They are precious in His sight  
Jesus loves the little children of the world<sup>6</sup>

So, people of God, you can go to sleep without being afraid God's precious arm will hold you, God also whispers I love you.

#### **RESPONSE TO THE WORD:**

Let us pray, "we lift up our souls, O Lord, for your goodness heals our ills, your forgiveness is sweeter than honey. Your steadfast love strengthens all who call upon you. Listen to our cries of supplication and deepest calling of our hearts. For you alone can hear us. You alone can mend our hurts and bind our wounds. Amen."<sup>7</sup>

#### **BENEDICTION:**

"Though we have been cast aside,  
you restore our future.  
Though others seek to banish us from sight,  
you bless us with opportunities for new life.

Go, with the blessings of the one who loves us fiercely.  
We go to share God's love with the world."<sup>8</sup>

Thank you, for joining us this morning, I hope that you join us today at 10am for our community virtual gathering to share encouraging words, but especially to check in with each in a similar fashion to pray for each other. You can join us by going to our website: [www.glcas.org](http://www.glcas.org) again, [www.glcas.org](http://www.glcas.org).

Remember, God loves you, and God cares about you!

### ***Endnotes***

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<sup>1</sup> New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

<sup>2</sup> Chris Glaser, *Feasting on The Word Commentary-Feasting on the Gospels-Matthew, Volume 1, Chapters 1-13* (WJK, Louisville, Kentucky, 2013), 268.

<sup>3</sup> Perry H. Biddle, Jr. *Preaching The Lectionary-A workbook for Year A* (Westminster/John Knox Press, Louisville, Kentucky, 1989), 222.

<sup>4</sup> Chris Glaser, 268.

<sup>5</sup> Greg Carey Working Preacher, *Lectionary Text for June 21, 2020*,

<sup>6</sup> The tune was written by George Frederick Root as an 1864 Civil War tune titled "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp, the Boys are Marching." Later the words of "Jesus Love the Little Children" were written for the tune by one of Root's favorite lyricists, Clare Herbert Woolston. Source from Wikipedia.

<sup>7</sup> Marry Scifres and B.J. Beu ed. *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020* (Abingdon Press, Nashville, 2019), 138.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*