

**Whom shall I fear?
Matthew 10:26-33**

- I. Pray and read passage together (Matthew 10:26-33)
- II. Pastor Carsten began with an observation about solid food vs. junk food during times of crisis. He compared this to solid theology vs. “christianity light”. Discuss some ways you have observed the danger of false teaching in a time like this?
- III. **Read Matthew 10:26-27.** The first “fear not” relates to the proclamation of the gospel message. Jesus knew the greatest obstacle to the gospel being proclaimed faithfully by the church was our own fear. Discuss how our fear is an obstacle to gospel proclamation.
- IV. How does Jesus’ promises of the present hidden truth of the gospel eventually coming to universal awareness and recognition encourage us not to fear in our proclamation?
- V. Can you summarise the gospel in a few sentences? What is our message?
- VI. **Read Matthew 10:28.** The second “fear not” addresses our fear of man. “Fear” in the ancient Jewish context relates to authority. To whom will I obey, heed, listen to? How does fear of man draw us away from fear of God?
- VII. Jesus draws our attention to eternity in order to combat our fear of man. God holds our eternal destiny in his hand. Discuss how does this encourage us not to fear men?
- VIII. **Read Matthew 10:29-33.** The last “fear not” relates to our circumstances. We need not fear our circumstances because God is in control of them. He has provided for our greatest need (hint: not food, water, safety, etc). Our greatest need is a savior. Discuss how our circumstances can distract us from our greatest need?
- IX. Jesus is our advocate standing next to us, by our side, during the final judgement. Just contemplate that fact for a moment. How does this encourage us in our mission to make disciples through gospel proclamation?
- X. Take some concerted time together to pray for one another; to pray for our own witness during this crisis.
 - A. Discuss the following questions as items to pray over for one another:
 1. Who has God placed in my life at this time who doesn’t know Jesus?
 2. What fears are hindering me from speaking gospel truths into their lives?
 3. How can God grow my faith in the power of the gospel during this season?