

The 4th Sunday after Pentecost
“No fear in serving Jesus!” (Matthew 10:27-28)
June 25, 2023
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Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, our text for this 4th Sunday after Pentecost is from our Gospel reading, Matthew 10:27-28.

27 “Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. 28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

Here ends our text.

I. The Master Jesus was killed to set free the students from sin

They were learning from the Master. What Jesus told them in private, they were to preach on the housetops. They were the students, watching their Master, as Jesus went from city to city preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of Heaven. It is at hand! Repent and believe!

The 12 apostles were commissioned with the same message. And were even given power that accompanied their message to heal the sick, drive out demons and raise the dead.

They learned from the Master to have compassion for the lost sheep who were led astray by the works righteousness of the Pharisees. They learned from the Master to freely give for they had freely received what is necessary for salvation – the Gospel of forgiveness.

This is what is to be preached from the housetops. Their housetops and ours. This is what is to be preached within our houses to our families – that God wants all to be saved. He is a friend of tax collectors and sinners.

Jesus the Master would be ridiculed, called the devil. He would be spit upon, whipped and crucified out of love for all people. By His stripes we are healed.

Jesus the Savior of the world would be rejected and killed so that we would be forgiven and not ever have to face the wrath of God without a Mediator! We would never have to stand before God in our unrighteous rags of sin and face the judgement of Him who will destroy both body and soul of anyone who does not confess Him.

Jesus said these most fearful words in Matthew 7 that we would never want to hear.

“21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ 23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”

Again, at the conclusion of our Gospel reading, Jesus says, **“33 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.”**

For God knows the heart of all His students and those who profess to be students but are not.

“For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.”

Therefore, we cling to the Gospel that we preach for it is our life and salvation. And as John wrote in his epistle we cling to our Master, our Advocate Jesus who defends us.

“My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.” (1 John 2:1)

And again in 1 John 4:18

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.”

So Paul tells us in our epistle from Romans 6 that whoever we obey is our master. Thanks be to God that we have been set free by Jesus from sin and the master who enslaved us, the devil. Why would we want to return to the lusts that enslaved us? asks Paul in our epistle. We who have been set free from sin.

“Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! 16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? 17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.”

We are slaves, servants, students of righteousness who are set free to serve the Master! Each of us who confess Jesus know this beautiful verse that Paul tells us in our epistle reading.

“23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

This we believe. This we confess. Though our wages of sin deserve death, we gladly receive the gift of God – eternal life – through Jesus Christ our Lord. This is the Gospel of the Kingdom of God that we preach in our houses and on our house roofs to our family, friends, and most importantly to those who don’t know Jesus. That they would not face God in their rags of unrighteousness who destroys both body and soul.

II. The student who is set free by the Master serves without fear

Will our telling of Good News that saves all men from eternal death be welcomed by all? Will it be easy?

No, Jesus plainly tells us that the student is not above the master. We shouldn’t expect to be treated any better than Jesus was. Christ’s disciples didn’t receive

such harsh treatment until after Pentecost. They were sent in the Great Commission in Matthew 28 as we are.

“22 And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.”

All the apostles except John became martyrs for Jesus. In the book of Acts we hear their stories of persecution, imprisonment, death.

But God promises us in Revelation 3 these beautiful words to keep us strong.

“5 He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.”

Jesus knew the persecution that His church would face after Pentecost and still faces today. So, Jesus gives us three reasons in our Gospel why His servants should not fear.

First, we should not fear mere people because God’s message is powerful and will strengthen us and always succeeds. Isaiah 43 comforts us.

**““Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by your name;
You are Mine.
2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you.
When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned,
Nor shall the flame scorch you.**

Again, Psalm 46 gives us much confidence to never fear.

**“God is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble.
2 Therefore we will not fear,
Even though the earth be removed,
And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;
3 Though its waters roar and be troubled,**

**Though the mountains shake with its swelling....
The Lord of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our refuge.”**

Second, we should not fear because though man can harm our bodies, they cannot harm our soul. So we know the beautiful passage from Romans 8.

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written:

**“For Your sake we are killed all day long;
We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”**

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

And third, we should not fear because cares for us!

“29 Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will. 30 But the very hairs of your head are all num-bered. 31 Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many spar-rows.”

And so we know from 1 Peter 5:7:

“7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”

In light of all that Jesus has just said. Don’t fear. Be bold in your witness always. And Jesus gives us a final “therefore” to conclude all that He has said and keep our focus on the eternal prize.

32 “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.”

What greater joy, blessing and honor is there than to hear Jesus confess you as His follower before His Father in heaven. Amen.

“The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Amen. (Philippians 4:7)