

The Way of Jesus: Week 3
Courage for the Costly Way
Matthew 10:24-39

Big Idea

The way of Jesus requires courageous allegiance when following him becomes costly.

1. Do Not Be Surprised by the Cost

Matthew 10:24-25

Jesus tells his disciples that a student is not above the teacher and a servant is not above the master.

If Jesus was rejected, slandered, and misunderstood, his disciples should not be shocked when faithfulness to him brings opposition.

Following Jesus is beautiful, but it is not always easy.

2. Do Not Be Silenced by Fear

Matthew 10:26-27

Jesus repeatedly tells his disciples not to fear.

The truth will not stay hidden forever. What is covered will be revealed, and what is hidden will be known.

Jesus does not call his disciples to be obnoxious, but he does call them to be unashamed.

3. Do Not Let People Become Ultimate

Matthew 10:28

Jesus does not pretend people cannot hurt us. They can.

But people are not ultimate.

The fear of God rightly orders every other fear. Courage does not come from pretending danger is not real. Courage comes from knowing God is greater.

4. Remember the Father Sees You

Matthew 10:29-31

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Jesus reminds his disciples that not even a sparrow falls apart from the Father's care.

The promise is not that sparrows never fall.

The promise is that no sparrow falls unnoticed by the Father.

The Father knows, sees, values, and holds his children.

5. Confess Jesus Openly

Matthew 10:32-33

Jesus calls his disciples to acknowledge him before others.

This is public allegiance language.

Jesus is not looking for secret admirers. He calls confessing disciples who belong to him in word and life.

6. Love Jesus Above Every Other Love

Matthew 10:34-37

Jesus' words about bringing "a sword" are not a call to violence. They are a warning that allegiance to him may create division.

Jesus is not against family. He is against any love, even a good and holy love, becoming higher than him.

Every love must be ordered under love for Jesus.

7. Take Up the Cross and Follow

Matthew 10:38-39

The cross was not a decoration or religious symbol in Jesus' day. It was an instrument of shame, suffering, and death.

To take up the cross means following Jesus even when the path leads to loss.

The paradox of the kingdom is this:

Whoever tries to save life apart from Jesus will lose it.

Whoever loses life for Jesus' sake will find it.

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Closing Summary

The way of Jesus is not cheap, always comfortable, or always applauded.

But it is true.

It is good.

It is life.

May we be disciples who are not surprised by the cost, not silenced by fear, and not ruled by self-protection.

May we confess Jesus openly, love him above every other love, take up the cross, and find true life in him.