

## **Courage for the Costly Way**

**Rev. Cheryl Farr**

### **Sermon Theme**

Following Jesus brings courage, truth, and trust, even when faith costs us comfort. Jesus prepares His disciples for opposition, but He also reminds them that the Father sees them, knows them, and values them.

### **Big Idea**

Jesus does not call us to an easy road. He calls us to a faithful one. Discipleship may cost approval, comfort, and control, but the life surrendered to Christ is the life truly found.

### **What the Passage Shows Us**

Jesus is speaking to disciples He has called, loved, equipped, and sent. They have seen His mercy and authority. Now He tells them that carrying His message will not always be welcomed. The disciples are not above their Teacher. If Jesus was misunderstood and rejected, His followers should not be surprised when they face the same. Rejection does not mean failure. Sometimes it means we are walking close to Christ.

### **Do Not Be Afraid**

Jesus tells His disciples not to be afraid because He knows fear is real. Being misunderstood hurts. Family tension hurts. Public criticism hurts. Losing comfort hurts.

But Jesus gives them something stronger than fear. God sees what is true. People may twist motives or tell the story wrong, but truth will not stay hidden forever.

Faith is personal, but it is not meant to be hidden so deeply that it never bears witness. We are not called to be harsh or loud. We are called to belong to Jesus openly.

### **The Father Sees the Sparrow**

In the middle of this hard teaching, Jesus gives a tender image. Sparrows were small and inexpensive, yet not one falls outside the Father's care.

If God sees the sparrow, He sees His children. If God notices what the world overlooks, He notices the disciple trying to be faithful in a hard place.

On Father's Day, this image reminds us that God is the Father who knows His children completely and loves them deeply. His care is personal. We are not forgotten. We are known.

### **Confessing Christ**

Jesus says acknowledging Him before others matters. Confession is more than words. It is open allegiance to Christ.

To confess Jesus means we live as people who belong to Him. We do not pretend He is optional when He is Lord. We do not hide mercy when mercy is needed. We do not deny grace to protect our comfort.

### **True Peace and Costly Faith**

Jesus' words about bringing a sword are not a call to violence. He is warning that loyalty to Him may create division, even among those we love.

False peace depends on silence, fear, or control. The peace of Christ is deeper. It reconciles us to God, but it may also expose what is broken.

Following Jesus does not make us love family less. It teaches us to love Christ most, which helps us love others more faithfully.

### **Taking Up the Cross**

Before the cross became a Christian symbol, it was an instrument of shame and death. When Jesus tells His disciples to take up their cross, He is talking about surrender.

**Matthew 10:24-39**

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Following Jesus is not a hobby or a little religious polish added to the life we already planned. It is the daily surrender of the self that wants control, approval, and safety above obedience. Jesus never calls us to a road He has not walked first. He carried the cross before He told us to carry ours.

### **The Life We Find**

Jesus teaches that the life we try to protect apart from Him is the life we lose. That sounds upside down, but it is true.

We can protect ourselves into loneliness. We can avoid conflict until truth disappears. We can chase approval until we forget who we are.

But when we surrender ourselves to Christ, we receive a life fear cannot give and the world cannot take.

### **What This Means for Us**

Some of us need courage to speak truth with love. Some need courage to stop hiding our faith. Some need courage to love our families without letting them take Christ's place. Some need courage to surrender what we have been trying to protect.

Jesus calls us to walk the costly way with courage because the Father sees us, Christ goes before us, and the Holy Spirit strengthens us.

### **Key Truths**

Jesus is honest about the cost of discipleship.

Faithfulness may bring misunderstanding.

Fear is real, but it does not have to rule us.

God sees and values His children.

Confessing Christ means belonging to Him openly.

Jesus brings true peace, not shallow peace.

The cross means surrender.

The life given to Jesus is the life truly found.

### **Questions for Reflection**

What fear makes it harder for me to follow Jesus openly?

Where am I tempted to choose comfort over faithfulness?

How does the image of the sparrow help me trust God?

What is the difference between keeping peace and avoiding truth?

Where do I need courage to confess Christ with love?

What part of my life am I still trying to protect from surrender?

### **Takeaway**

Matthew 10:24-39 reminds us that following Jesus is not always comfortable, but it is always held in the Father's care. We do not have to live afraid. Christ gives courage for the costly way, and the life surrendered to Him is the life truly found.

### **Key Verse**

“Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.”

Matthew 10:39