

June 21, 2026

St. Matthew 10:21-31:

**“Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus”**

- I. Identified
- II. Do Not Fear
- III. Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus

Pilgrim Lutheran Church  
2155 N. Oakland Avenue  
Decatur Illinois 62526

St, Matthew 10:21-31

Dear Friends in Christ,

There's a story about a church member who was preparing to go to a lumber camp in the north. A friend said to him, "If those lumberjacks find out you're a Christian, they'll make fun of you." When the man came back, his friend asked him, "Well, how did it go, how did you get along with the lumberjacks?" The man answered, "All right. They didn't find out."

I'm thinking that's the way it is for many Christians. It's the fear of being rejected and looking foolish. Well, God's Word addresses this. "For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men (I Cor,1:25)." The foolishness of God is Christ whose blood covered our sin and earned our heaven. The foolishness of man is rejection of Christ and their sin and that earns eternal hell.

Jesus said, "And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars (sin)... Many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another (sin)...false prophets will arise and lead many astray (sin)... Lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold (sin) (Mt.24:6-12; portions)." Instead of running after the world...

## LET US EVER WALK WITH JESUS

### I. Identified

The 24th verse of our text reads, "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master." Those who claim the Christ for forgiveness and eternal life are identified with him!

Our identity takes us back to verse 22 of our text: "...you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved." Why "hated"? The 25th verse of our text answers: "It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul (Satan), how much more will they malign those of his household." So, why is the Lord hated and called Satan? I'll tell you why...

Before I was a Christian, I didn't fully grasp the eternal plague and intricacies of sin. And then came the moment when I realized that mankind's thinking that it will attain the perfect world by its efforts, the efforts have always failed! Have you ever studied history? Let's try it this way: Have you ever had thoughts you should not have had about others or issues, and the thoughts morphed (smoothly moved) into words - and then the words morphed into actions - and then the actions morphed into an aftermath that burdened you with intense guilt, regrets, shame, pain - and the aftermath remains? It's called the consequences of sin, disobeying God's Commandments in thought, word, and deed. It's the history of the world! And God said, "The soul that sins shall die." God hates sin and rejects the sinner!

Forgive me for being terribly repetitive. Christ entered this world to pay the debt we owe God, a sinless life, and to take upon Himself the death and hell we deserve! The question has been asked from this pulpit an unknown number of times, but it's one you could ask others: "If God asked you, 'Why should I let you into heaven,' what would you say?" I would say, "You shouldn't because I'm a sinner, but I believe Christ paid for all my sin, and you promised that 'whoever believes has eternal life.'"

### II. Do Not Fear

Worldly thinking doesn't want to hear that, sees itself as worthy and deserving of God's love. God's Word screams at us every day, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rm.3:23)." Haven't we heard people say, "God loves and accepts all people, no matter what!" People who say something

like that need to listen to God's word: "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son (that is, believe) shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him (Jn3.36)." - and that's forever!

We know, the struggle with sin goes on to the day we die. We must confess with Paul, "...I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing... Who will deliver me from this body of death (R.7:19,24)?" We rejoice with Paul, "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Rm.8:1)." We belong to Jesus, and that changes everything. We want others to know Christ. God had Paul write, "That each of you look not to his own interests, but also to the interests of others (Phil.2:4)." We want others to know Jesus, but most don't want to know because it requires confessing sin, and that gets in the way of the desires of the flesh. Take a good look at what those desires of the flesh have done to this world; to marriage, to traditional family, to children, protection of life, common sense, decency and respect

Understand, if we are identified with Christ, we should not be surprised that we share His rejection. It's what the church throughout the world has always experienced. Jesus said, "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world (Jn.16:33)." That's why the world calls Jesus, Satan! But listen to what Jesus declared from our text:

"So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be made known. But what I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetop. And 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 (vv.26-28)."

What Jesus said has been described this way: "This statement is general and here refers both to the enemies of Christ and all their secrets and (refers) to the disciples and the blessed gospel secret. Everything shall come to light so do not have the least fear either that you shall fail or that they shall succeed. God knows no failures, so do not be afraid." Time and again God's Word sets in front of us our assignment: share the love of Christ whether the world wants it or not. After all, there are those who want to hear it.

In 1967, Joseph Bailey wrote a book entitled "The Gospel Blimp". In the book are people who have been trying to share the Gospel with a neighbor. The story goes, "The way they do this is by dropping Gospel tracks out of a large blimp hovering over his house. Well, it worked and one day the neighbor rushed next door to talk with one of the blimp leaders about his situation. However, the blimp leader couldn't listen because he had to hurry down to the blimp hanger for a committee meeting to plant flowers and shrubbery around the hangar. His thinking was, 'How can you reach the man with your blimp when you're flying it out of an undecorated blimp hanger?'" It was stated, "We need to reassess our priorities and put people first! Everything else is daisy planting in comparison. Be available!"

That's what Jesus wants us to be; available and ever ready to share the Gospel with everyone.

### III. Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus

Please listen to these words from the Book of Revelation regarding Judgment Day; please listen carefully. It involves a lot of people we know who don't believe:

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged each

one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire (Rev.20:12b-15).

I know, some are thinking, "Judged according to what they had done" means that you must do good works to get to heaven! Isn't this a contradiction according to what the Bible says, 'For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God, not a result of works... (Eph.2:8-9)'" Remember that moment when a crowd of people said to Jesus, "'What must we do, to be doing the works of God?' Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent (Jn.6:28-29).'" The assignment the Lord left you and me is to reach into the lives of those without Him.

As far as our getting hypnotized by the desires of this world, we must remember these words: "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him (I John 2:15)." The word used for love in this text is "agape" which means the willingness to sacrifice everything for something. Do not love the world that way! And so, our text closes with these words; no commentary is needed...

And 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. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore, you are of more value than many sparrows (vv.28-31).

Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus.

Truly.

Pastor Bill Abbott