

## INTRODUCE

Well, good morning church! If I haven't met you yet, my name is Chris Martin, and I'm the Lead Pastor here.

If you've got your Bibles, and I hope you do, please open them up to Matthew chapter 10. Matthew 10. That's where we're going to be.

We want every person to have a hand on their Bible. You can open your phone or tablet to Matthew 10. If you open one of the hard-backed black bibles under your seat, Matthew 10 will be on page **815**.

## INTRODUCTION: FROZEN

My daughter Harper turned six this week,

- and she's really into Trolls right now,
- so, we had a Trolls themed birthday at my house.

Nothing like a bunch of

- naked
- mythical creatures
- with gems in their navels.
- Not sure if it's appropriate or not.

But she's into it...and it got me reminiscing back onto other things she's been into and had phases of.

- Before Trolls we were on a Barbie kick.
- And before that was Toy Story
- and Moana
- and horses
- and Mickey Mouse...

But it's a well-known fact at Fathom that my daughter's first love was the movie 'Frozen'.

When she was 3, her entire world revolved around Frozen.

- She loved it!
- But she only loved parts of it. Alright?

It's not one of those movies that you can put on to babysit your kid while you do something else around the house...if we did such things.

Cause it's got some scary scenes in it, and there were parts of it that she didn't like at all.

But then there were parts of it that she really liked. Ok?

- Like, she really, really liked when they wanna build a snowman.
- And she loved Let It Go and building the ice castle.

But then there are some parts of that movie that she didn't like at all.

- Like when Elsa creates the terrifying snow-monster
- to attempt to kill her sister.
  - I mean, how is that appropriate?
  - Disney is sketchy, yo.
  - But she was scared of that.
- She didn't like the dark scenes where Hans was mean.
- And she didn't like when Elsa fought with ice.
  - It scared her.
  - She didn't like to watch it.

She just liked the pretty part.

But here's the thing, because the only thing she saw at first was the pretty part, she didn't understand the story.

- Like she didn't get that these girls were orphaned
  - when their parents were lost at sea...
- and she didn't get that Elsa cared so much
  - about her own self-identity and self-expression
  - that she was willing to put her entire town at risk,
  - and almost killed her sister...

I almost feel sorry for myself right now. Like, it's sad that I know this!

She just thought it was a story about beautiful princesses and a talking snowman.

So, we'd skip the parts she didn't like. Right?

- We'd go from the snowman making scene,
- to the Hans and Anna fall in love scene,
- to Let it Go,
- and then we'd fast forward to the ending
- where they're all ice-skating and having fun.

She wanted none of the hard or scary parts.

## TRANSITION

I'm calling today's sermon **SLIDE I AIN'T SCARED**. You gotta say it like that. *"I AIN'T SCRRRED."*

Today is one of the hard parts of the Gospel of Matthew. And I think sometimes, as Evangelicals, we can be like my daughter was. I mean, we love the happy parts of this thing.

- We love that God is gracious and loving,
- and he's about restoration,
- and he's about hope,
- and we love to hear these things about God.

We don't, however, like hearing about other parts that might be a little scarier for us.

And today, in Matthew 10...we find a difficult saying of Jesus.

- And we can't fast forward and only preach the fun stuff...
- because if you don't know the hard parts,
- you don't know the whole story. Right?

Like, if you don't know the hard parts,  
then it's just a girl in a pretty dress making a snowman.

So, now that you're beaming with anticipation and excitement,  
 let's get after it.

**BLANK SLIDE**

### **MATTHEW 10:26a**

[26] "So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known."

### **EXPLAIN: THEM**

Now, who is the "them" we are not fear?

- Well, that is those who will persecute them.

Kyle taught us this last week, but Jesus assured his followers that if they follow him faithfully, they will come up against opposition and be hated.

And that is who you shouldn't fear. But why?

Why shouldn't we be scared?

Because it's all going to come to light! Verse 27

### **MATTHEW 10:27**

[27] What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops.

### **EXPLAIN: PUBLIC**

All the stuff that Jesus taught them "in the dark" that was "whispered" refers to his private instruction to the disciples.

- He has been giving them guidance about following him.
- But now they have, in a sense, graduated.
- So, now they must proclaim these truths
- "in the light...on the housetops."
- Essentially, it's time to go public...and be hated...

Verse 28

### **MATTHEW 10:28**

[28] And do not fear

That's the second time he says "do not fear"

[28] And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.

To, which, if I'm a disciple, I'm thinking, *"Is that supposed to make me feel better?"*

- *"Hey, what's the worst thing they can do? Kill you?"*
- *"Yeah! That's the part we're worried about, Jesus!"*
- And Jesus is like, *"well, don't worry about that part, ok?"*

**Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.**

In other words:

- **as your fear of God increases,**
- **your fear of man decreases.**

Now he illustrates...Verse 29

### **MATTHEW 10:29-30**

**[29] Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. [30] But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.**

### **EXPLAIN: ILLUSTRATIONS**

So, now Jesus illustrates why we aren't to fear.

He first uses sparrows.

- Now, sparrows were by far the cheapest food
  - (considered food for the poor),
- and a "penny" was the smallest coin in the Roman world
  - (less than an hour's wage).

- So, two sparrows are worth one penny.
  - That shows you how seemingly insignificant they were.

So, here's his logic:

- the God who is in charge of all things for all eternity,
- also cares for the smallest sparrow;
- how much more will he care for us!

And then he talks about hair.

- Nobody knows how many hairs one has.
- Most estimates suggest that you have, in the region of
  - two to five million hair follicles.
- But those innumerable hairs,
- are known to God.

He's in charge of everything, and yet he's so intimate that he knows the number of hairs on your head...

- Guys, he knows how many you have,
  - how many you're gonna have,
  - how many you used to have.
- Ladies he knows what color it used to be...
  - and what color it's gonna be...
  - he knows all of those things.

## TRANSITION

So, why can we say I AIN'T SCARED?

- Because he knows us!

Why don't we fear?

- Because the Almighty Sovereign Maker of the universe,
- while he is huge and transcendent...
- he is also personal and intimate.

Verse 31:

## MATTHEW 10:31

[31] Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

## POINT 1

That's the third time he's said 'fear not'. When Jesus tells you something three times you really should pay attention.

And it's my first of two points today.

The reason you don't have to be scared is this:

- You are **SLIDE VALUED BY HIM**
- Essentially: Don't you know who your dad is?
  - He is transcendent...
  - he knows all things...
  - and yet he is intimate...
  - he is your father...
  - he's your dad!



So, you don't have to be scared...

- because he's got the whole world in his hands...
- AND he's crazy about you!

## **ILLUSTRATION: SKIING WITH DAD**

When I was growing up, we didn't go to church. So, my dad would take me skiing on Sundays. And you know what I worried about on those trips? Nothing. Not a thing.

I never worried about how we were going to get there. I knew how we were going to get there.

- You see, this was back before
- everyone had their 4-Wheel-Drive SUVs,
- and we were no exception.
  - My dad drove a 1980s
  - Blue Ford Econoline Van with curtains.
  - Nice, right?

And so, when we would head up I-70

- we had to put snow chains on the tires.
  - You done that lately?
  - Nope.

And did we worry about safety?

- No. There were two captain's chairs in the front,
- two captain's chairs in the middle,
- and a bench seat in the back that could fold down into a bed.

- And sometimes I'd lose a piece of candy
- in the bench seat,
- and I'd reach back there
- and I'd pull something out,
- and I'd be like, *"Daddy, what's this?"*
- It was the seatbelt,
- and my dad would be like,
- *"Boy, tuck that thing back in there,*
- *it's gonna fly around and hurt someone."*
- *"Ok Daddy."*

And then when we got there, did I worry about...

- ski tickets? No.
- Skis? No.
- Poles? No.
- All my ski gear? No.
- None of that.

My dad had everything under control.

- You know what we never did?
- Worry.
- Why?
- Cause my dad's got this!

## TRANSITION

A lack of fear is to characterize the life of a Christian because of who our Father is!

- Christ's purpose is to encourage his disciples,
- that in the midst of the opposition and hatred,
- there is no need to fear.
- The sovereign God, not they, is in charge.

Why can we as Christians say, I AIN'T SCARED?

- Because of who your dad is,
- and because you are valued by him.

Alright, look down to verse 34:

**BLANK SLIDE**

### **MATTHEW 10:34**

[34] "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword."

### **EXPLAIN: PEACE**

Now, what's important here is what we mean when we say the word peace.

- Because Jesus is the Prince of Peace.
- The angel announced at his birth tidings of peace on earth.
- He even said at the end of his life, "My peace I leave with you."

So, what kind of peace does he mean here?

Well, I think when we think about the word peace

- we think of a victory in trial,
- or the absence of challenging circumstances.

Right?

Make peace, not war...

- So, it's an absence of conflict.
- We are talking about favorable circumstances,
  - comfort,
  - safety,
  - and self-satisfaction.

But when the Bible talks about peace,

- it talks about the word Shalom...
- maybe you've heard that word before...
- it's the Old Testament word for peace.
- It means "everything as it should be"...
- "being wholly connected with God."

Shalom is the kind of peace that Jesus DOES bring in salvation.

But the kind of circumstantial peace that we often think about isn't assured. That's what he's talking about.

He goes on to elaborate. Verse 35:

### **MATTHEW 10:35**

[35] For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.

I think that was going to happen with or without Jesus, but he just threw it in there anyways.

## **MATTHEW 10:36**

**[36] And a person's enemies will be those of his own household.**

Now, this is important:

- Jesus isn't saying our job as Christians
  - is to bring strife into our families,
- but he is saying that if we follow him
  - it might bring strife into our families.

You see, swords divide, and he says,

- there could be division,
- if the core belief of you
- is different than the core belief of your family.

### **ILLUSTRATION: MY FAMILY**

Now, I've already told you I wasn't raised in the church.

- Which means I am a first-generation Christian in my family.
- My mom did become a Christian right around the same time,
- but our family and extended family really aren't believers.

So, this generation of believers in my family, is the first.

- And what that means is sometimes,
- things can get awkward,
- or at worst, heated.

Like, I talk about my dad a fair amount, I've already done that today!

- And I really love and respect him a ton,
- even if we don't share all the same spiritual beliefs.

- But I often wonder what went on in his head when my mom,
  - my brother,
  - and I all got saved.

I wonder if he was like, “*what kind of freaky cult got a hold of my family?*”

- Yes, Jesus did bring some peace when I started following him...
- but it also created some conflict in my immediate family...
- and with my extended family.

## APPLICATION

So, there are some of you in this church...

- who are pretty new to this Christianity stuff,
- or maybe you’ve been in church for a while,
- but this is the first time you’re really taking your faith seriously.

And that’s going to freak some people out around you. Maybe even your family!

- This is part of the reason why Jesus said, **do not fear**...

## TRANSITION

Now, Jesus ends this section with something that’s really interesting.

- In verses 37-39 he does something that kinda echoes
- what he did in verses 32-33,
- which you may have noticed I conveniently skipped.

So, let’s read 32-33 and then 37-39:

## **MATTHEW 10:32-33**

[32] So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, [33] but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

## **MATTHEW 10:37-39**

[37] Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. [38] And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. [39] Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

## **POINT 2**

Here's what's going on here...

- Jesus is combining all that he's said about discipleship,
- with all he has just said about mission.
- And he's kinda giving us an ultimatum.

He's saying:

- No matter what this costs you, it's worth it.

He's saying:

- unless you love Jesus most, you'll miss it.

He's saying:

- you have to be willing to take your cross...

And it's my other point about I AIN'T SCARED.

- You don't have to be scared
  - because you are VALUED BY HIM.
- But you also don't have to be scared
  - because you find **SLIDE LIFE IN HIM**

Listen: if you're looking for true life anywhere besides Jesus...

you'll never find it.

- You won't find it in your family...
- you won't find it in your job...
- you won't find it in your relationships...

If you try to find your life in the things that this world has to offer...

- if you accomplish every goal that you ever set out to...
- if you make all the money...
- if you take all the trips...
- if you just grab on to the things of this world...
- well, the problem is that this world just grabs on to you.

And that leads to dissatisfaction and despair because you were created for so much more than this.

- We live in a world that cannot satisfy.
- **Whoever finds his life will lose it,**
- **and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.**

Jesus doesn't promise to make everything better in your life.

- He says, "I am better than life."

Jesus doesn't say there won't be scary things if you follow him.

- He says, "I am better than those fears."



Jesus doesn't promise you peace, even in your own family.

- He says, "I am peace...and you'll have me!"

If we lose our life for his sake, we will actually find our LIFE IN HIM.

**BLANK SLIDE**

## **CONCLUSION: JOHN 20**

Now, before we close up, I want to take us to John 20.

You don't have to turn there, but in John 20 here's what's happened:

- Jesus has been killed.
- He's been buried.
- And he's been resurrected by God.
- And now, in John 20:19, he appears for the first time to his disciples.

So, look with me John 20:19

### **SLIDE JOHN 20:19–22**

[19] On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." [20] When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. [21] Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." [22] And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

So, here we have the same disciples as we found back in Matthew...

- and they're locked in a room...why?

**For fear of the Jews.**

- They were afraid.
- They were scared.
- Jesus is dead.
- Jesus is gone.
- And they're afraid of the persecution they might face, too.

But Jesus shows up and says what?

- **Peace be with you.**
- And he **breathes on them.**
- And they **receive the Holy Spirit.**
  - The Spirit of God.
- And then he **sends them out.**

**BLANK SLIDE**

And these guys, cowering in fear...

will leave that room, and go on to start the church...

- in the midst of all their fear...
- in the midst of all the swords against them...
- in the midst of heavy persecution...
- they are given courage,
- and they start a movement
- which we continue even this morning.

So, what happened?

- How did they move from fear to courage?
- How did they get to the point where they could say,
  - I AIN'T SCARED!

Well,

- when the presence of Jesus...
- came into their fear...
- and extended peace...
- they were emboldened...
- I AIN'T SCARED!

Here's the point:

**SLIDE PEACE ISN'T FOUND IN THE ABSENCE OF FEAR...  
IT'S FOUND IN THE PRESENCE OF JESUS.**

### **EXPLAIN: HOLY SPIRIT**

The Spirit that he gives means that his presence would never leave them.

- That through the Spirit of Jesus
- Jesus would be present for all time,
  - in every place,
  - in the life of every single Jesus follower.

If you are in Christ,

- you have his presence, the Holy Spirit,
- living in you.
- And he is peace...
- so, you don't have to be afraid!

But you must have a relationship with the very one who is peace.

- PEACE IS NOT THE ABSENCE OF FEAR...
- IT'S THE PRESENCE OF JESUS.

And some of you, today, need to start a relationship with Jesus.

- You just pray, "*Jesus, I give you my life.*"
- And the spirit of God...
- the presence of God...
- will bring you peace...shalom.

And to those who already do follow Jesus...

- this is what God says to us today.
- God is sending us into this world...
  - full of fear...
  - full of strife...
  - full of enemies.
- But he is with you! That's the promise.
  - That's what gives you courage.
  - That's what gives you peace.
  - That's how you can say I AIN'T SCARED.

So, yeah, these are some of the hard parts of the reality of following Jesus.

- It's not just a pretty princess building a snowman.
- But it's the whole story.

Meditate deeply on the things Jesus says about you, Christian.

- You are valuable to him.
- You are acknowledged before the Father by him.
- And you will find your life in him.

Don't be scared. He is with you.

Let's pray. **LYRICS SLIDE W/PADS**

## RESPONSES:

Well, every week at Fathom we respond in 4 ways:

- COMMUNION – THE LORD’S SUPPER
- GIVING TITHES & OFFERINGS – [fathomchurch.org/give](http://fathomchurch.org/give)
- PRAYER - [fathomchurch.org/prayer](http://fathomchurch.org/prayer)
- SINGING

So, I’m going to read the Words of Institution from the Apostle Paul, we’ll take communion, and then we’ll sing:

### 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23–26 – WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[23] For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[25] In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Love you church, let’s stand and sing together.

## RESOURCES USED:

- Carson, D.A. Matthew: The Expositor's Bible Commentary.
- Chandler, Matt. *Peace, Division and Fire*.
- Greear, JD. *I Came Not to Bring Peace but Division*.
- Lusko, Levi. *Right in the Middle*.
- Osborne, Grant R. Matthew: Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament.