

Hidden Strength

Description

Matthew 10:26-33.

Let's be honest: Sometimes, living for Jesus means that we will not win any popularity prizes from the world around us. If you are a natural people-pleaser, as I am, you want to "Go along to get along." However, this can cause you to compromise your witness for Christ. Sin is real and slippery as an eel. Friendship with the world can be a dangerous business (James 4:4).

However, following Christ is not a license to be obnoxious. We are called to display the unselfish love, unfeigned humility, steadfast integrity, and genuine compassion of Jesus. How can we do this? It is a hard balance to maintain.

Sparrows, like sheep, travel in flocks. The wolves' strategy is to single out a sheep. However, in the group, there is safety and encouragement.

Jesus' disciples also have a powerful unseen companion, the Holy Spirit. Only those who abide in the group, empowered and led by the Holy Spirit, can consistently manifest the life of Christ.

Three times in this short passage, Jesus repeats, "Do not be afraid" (vv. 26, 28, 30). We need never fear; the Lord is near.

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