

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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SERMON TITLE If You Love the Lord, part 6

SERIES

DATE 3/3/2024

KEY SCRIPTURE Matthew 10 & 11

SYNOPSIS

HIGHLIGHTS



☞ If You Love the Lord

John 14:15

If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

True love will be shown and, to demonstrate your love for the Lord, you will obey him. Ultimately, obeying his commands is only possible through his strength, so we must keep running back to him.

☞ Today, we will be in **Matthew 10 & 11**...

“Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” (Matthew 10:28).

☞ **Don't fear**

Acrophobia: Fear of heights.

Arachnophobia: Fear of spiders.

Claustrophobia: Fear of confined or tight spaces.

Glossophobia: Fear of public speaking.

Melissophobia: Fear of bees.

Nomophobia: Fear of being without a phone.

In context, Jesus is referring to the fear of people and how they will respond when you share your faith. Jesus essentially says, “share your faith and don't be afraid of people even if they threaten your life; they can't kill your soul.” Clearly, this calls for an eternal perspective. Death can be a scary thing, but with eternity in mind, it need not be.

Philippians 1:21 says, “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.” 2 Corinthians 5:1 says, “if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven”

Jesus is saying, fear God, don't fear man. The worst thing man can do is kill you. "To be absent from this body is to be present with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:8). You should fear the one who is able to take both body and soul and cast it into hell, that's the one you really should be fearing.

☞ **If you fear the Lord, you don't need to fear anything else.** We often say that the fear of God is just high respect, but this word from Jesus sure sounds like genuine fear to me. God has the power to destroy you completely in hell. Jesus wasn't only about the promises of eternal & abundant life. He also gave warnings of what will happen if you reject him. But I think I'm preaching primarily to believers, so you know you don't have to be afraid.



If you've accepted Christ and are following him, there's no need to fear. We certainly don't need to fear people who might persecute us; and we don't need to fear the enemy either because "the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." (1 John 4:4) The enemy wants to ☞ intimidate and silence us, but his threats are only temporal. **Eternity is what really matters!** And, our eternity is in God's hands.

Somebody paraphrased this verse: *"Don't be bluffed into silence by the threats of bullies. There's nothing they can do to your soul, your core being. Save your fear for God, who holds your entire life — body and soul — in his hands."*

☞ **False Evidence Appearing Real.** The enemy wants us to think people will reject us or that we are in a dangerous situation, but it's typically just a bluff – false evidence that only appears to be real.

You are of more value than many sparrows: *If God cares for the sparrows, and numbers the very hairs of our head, then He will also pay careful attention to our needs. Those who experience persecution can easily feel that God forgets them, but He has not. God knows us better than our friends know us; better than our spouse knows us; better than we know ourselves. The God who knows us so well will take care of us.*

So, keep eternity in mind and don't fear!

☞ **Rest in Jesus**

"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28).

Come to me. This is a command with the emphasis on timing. Come here, now! Here it is again – ☞ **keep running back to Jesus.** Don't dawdle; don't delay; dash to the Lord.

Cf. 100-meter dash. Hurry up and run to Jesus. He gives the rest you need.

Rest. Refreshing; restoration; renewal. This is something Jesus gives us. So, it's not just a vacation or taking a break. It's a supernatural renewal that happens when we keep running back to Jesus. Sometimes, we grow weary doing ministry and we think we need to take a break. Occasionally that may be true. But what is always true is that you need to run back to Jesus because he refreshes and restores your strength. And, Isaiah 33:2 suggests that he renews our strength every morning. If we keep running back to Jesus every day, then we don't need to break away from serving so much, because he keeps on renewing us.



☞ **Isaiah 40:28-31**

28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. 29 He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. 30 Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; 31 but **those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength**. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

The word “hope” in the Hebrew can also be translated as “wait.” The most literal translation is “to twist or bind together.” This affirms what I’ve been saying – run to Jesus; stay close to him and he will give you rest and refreshing. The word “renew” in Hebrew is a verb which has a continuous action. So, we can say, “those who hope (wait; stay close) in the Lord will keep on renewing their strength.”

☞ **Release Everything, Simply Trust**

My yoke is easy and My burden is light: *The yoke is easy and the burden is light because He bears it with us. When training a new ox to plow, ancient farmers often yoked it to an older, stronger, more experienced animal who bore the burden and guided the young animal through the learning process. That’s how we are yoked to Jesus. He’s the stronger one who guides us.*

“The word ‘easy’ can mean well-fitting. Ox-yokes were made of wood...The yoke was carefully adjusted, so that it would fit well, and not gall the neck of the animal. The yoke was tailor-made to fit the ox.” When you run to Jesus, he gives you tailor-made assignments that are a perfect fit for you, even if, at first, it seems like a mismatch. He knows what he is doing, so, simply trust.

This isn’t a call to a lazy or indulgent life. There is still a yoke to bear and burden to carry. Yet with Jesus, they are easy and light. He works with you and he carries the bulk of the yoke.

☞ **So, run to Jesus, realign with Jesus, rest in Jesus. Don’t fear. Rest!**

Altar Ministry.

Struggling with fear?

Need to be renewed and refreshed?

☞ **Background music**