

Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

Revere God, Be Fearless

²⁴ "A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ^{25a} It is enough for the student to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master.

Q1. *A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master:* Thinking about the relationship between a student to a teacher, or a servant to his/her master, why is this statement true?

Q2. *It is enough for the student to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master:* Why is imitation ("to be like") enough?

 "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery." [Generally attributed to Charles Caleb Colton (about 1820)]

^{25b} If the head of the house has been called Beelzebub [*Bē-ĕll-zē-būb*], how much more the members of his household!

Q3. *If the head of the house has been called Beelzebub:* Who is "Beelzebub"?

Q4. *If . . . head of the house . . . called Beelzebub, how much more the members of his household:* Why might members of the household be called "Beelzebub"?

Lesson 18: Matthew 10:24-33

- Q5. *If . . . head of the house . . . called Beelzebub, how much more the members of his household:* Did you notice? Jesus is referring to His Apostles as “members of his household”. What does this imply?
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Matthew 10:14, 23^a, 28 [New Living Translation (NLT)]

¹⁴ If any household or town refuses to welcome you or listen to your message, shake its dust from your feet as you leave. . . .

^{23a} When you are persecuted in one town, flee to the next. . . .

²⁸ “Don’t be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Day 2

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²⁶ “So do not be afraid of them. There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. ²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs.

- Q6. *So, do not be afraid of them:* Jesus continues to instruct His Apostles. ① They are “*not [to] be afraid*” of who? In other words, who is “*them*”? ② Why should they not fear them?

① Who is “them”?

② Why should they not fear them?

- Q7. *So, do not be afraid of them:* Does this apply to us, today?

Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

Lesson 18: Matthew 10:24-33

Q8. ***There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known:*** Is there a promise in this statement of Jesus's? If yes, what is it?

Yes? No? (Thoughts?)

Q9. ***What I tell you in the dark . . . what is whispered in your ear:*** ① Would you characterize these as 'secrets'? ② If yes, why would Jesus emphasize 'secrets'?

① Are these 'secrets'? Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

② If yes, why emphasize 'secrets'?

Luke 19:39-40 [New American Standard Bible (NASB)]

³⁹ And yet some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples!"

⁴⁰ Jesus replied, "I tell you, if these [His disciples] stop speaking, the stones will cry out!"

Q10. ***Speak in the daylight . . . proclaim from the roofs:*** In a general sense, since they began following Jesus, what is the purpose of the disciples/apostles (excluding Judas Iscariot) going forward?

Day 3

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²⁸ Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Q11. ***Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul:*** ① "Who [can] kill the body"? ② Why isn't the soul killed?

① "Who [can] kill the body"?

② Why isn't the soul killed?

Lesson 18: Matthew 10:24-33

Q12. *Be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell:* Who is “the One”?

James 4:12^a [NIV-1984]

There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy.

2 Peter 2:4, 9 [NIV-1984]

⁴ For God did not spare even the angels who sinned. He threw them into hell, in gloomy pits of darkness, where they are being held until the day of judgment. . . . ⁹ So you see, the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their trials, even while keeping the wicked under punishment until the day of final judgment.

Job 1:6-12 [NIV-1984]

⁶ One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them.

⁷ The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?"

Satan answered the Lord, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it."

⁸ Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

⁹ "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. ¹⁰ "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. ¹¹ But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."

¹² The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Then Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

1 Peter 5:8-9 [NIV-1984]

⁸ Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

Q13. *Be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell:* What event – still future to us – will occur?

 T H G T W T E
 T H E J U E T

Revelation 20:10-15 [NIV-1984]

¹⁰ And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.

Lesson 18: Matthew 10:24-33

¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Q14. (Apologetics) ***Be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell:*** “I don’t believe that! God doesn’t destroy! God is love! Besides, I’m more charitable than many people, and I know I’m going to Heaven!” ① Is this person’s theology accurate? ② How would you answer this person?

① Is this person’s theology accurate? Yes? No? (Thoughts?)

② How would you answer this person?

Day 4

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²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father.

Q15. ***Are not two sparrows sold for a penny:*** Why did Jesus use the lowly, commonplace “sparrow” in His teaching?

John 1:3 [New Living Translation (NLT)]

God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him.

Genesis 1:20-21 [NIV-1984]

²⁰ And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." ²¹ So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

Lesson 18: Matthew 10:24-33

Q16. *Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father:* Do we know if God cares for even the lowly “sparrow”?

Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

Psalms 139:16^b [NIV-1984]

All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Ephesians 1:4-6 [NIV-1984]

⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will — ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

Ephesians 2:10 [NIV-1984]

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Revelation 13:8 [NIV-1984]

All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast — all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.

Q17. *Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father:* Is there significance in Jesus's use of “your Father”? If yes, what?

Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

Ephesians 1:5 [New Living Translation (NLT)]

God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

Romans 8:15 [New Living Translation (NLT)]

So, you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, “Abba, Father.”

Lesson 18: Matthew 10:24-33

Day 5

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³⁰ And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Q18. *Even the very hairs of your head are all numbered:* Does Jesus care about . . . you? What can you infer from this statement about your worth to the Creator of the universe?

What can you infer . . . about your worth?

 “Now Jesus declares that their Father God even knows the number of hairs on each of their heads. God cares about the smallest details of our lives. Contrary to what we sometimes imagine, God is not only concerned with the big issues we face or our victories and failures. He is aware of and involved with the tiniest matters of His children's lives. This does not mean God will always, in all cases, prevent harm or hardship from coming to faithful believers ([Matthew 5:3-12](#)). It does mean that we should not interpret difficult times as abandonment by God.” [© Copyright 2002-2026 Got Questions Ministries. All rights reserved. <https://www.bibleref.com/Matthew/10/Matthew-10-30.html>. Accessed: 06-23-2026.]

Q19. *So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows:* Jesus gave His disciples this peptalk before He sent them ([Matthew 10:5](#)) out two-by-two on their first missionary journey ([Luke 10:1-20](#)). Why did Jesus tell them “*don't be afraid*”? (He repeated “*don't be afraid*” three times!)

Matthew 10:26 [NIV-1984]

"So do not be afraid of them. There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known.

Matthew 10:28 [NIV-1984]

Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Matthew 10:31 [NIV-1984]

So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

 Why did Jesus send out His disciples two-by-two?

“Even the most zealous follower of Jesus will have challenging days. These are days when it is hard to persevere. Jesus sent people out two by two because the other could be strong when one was weak. When one doubted the mission, the other could remind him of the words of Jesus and what they had seen him do. Jesus was and is the only person who lived a perfect life. Everyone else will stumble and fall. King Solomon writes, “Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is

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alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!" ([Ecclesiastes 4:9-10](#))

"The Lord designed humankind to be interdependent. We need each other, and that is good! Husbands need wives, and wives need husbands. Children need parents, and friends are to love and support one another. Beyond these relationships, there is the body of Christ to build up one another up in love and unity. There was not a disciple who could walk it alone. Even Jesus surrounded himself with the company of twelve and then the three in his inner circle." [© 2026 Bible Study Media. All Rights Reserved. <https://biblestudymedia.com/blogs/daily-lectionary-devotional/why-jesus-did-jesus-send-out-disciples-two-by-two>. Accessed: 06-23-2026.]

Q20. (**Personal** not to be discussed in a group) ***You are worth more than many sparrows:*** Do you believe Jesus's words that "*You are worth more than many sparrows*"?

Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

 "Jesus has been telling His apostles both that they will face terrible persecution as they preach His message to the world and that they should not be afraid ([Matthew 10:22-28](#)). One reason they should not fear is that their powerful Father, God, knows them, is paying attention to them, and cares about them. God knows when even a single sparrow falls, despite that sparrows seem to be of so little value. Now Christ tells His disciples not to be afraid: they are clearly more precious to God than birds are." [© Copyright 2002-2026 Got Questions Ministries. All rights reserved. <https://www.bibleref.com/Matthew/10/Matthew-10-31.html>. Accessed: 06-23-2026.]

Day 6

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Acknowledge Jesus Before Others

³² "Whoever acknowledges me before men ^[others], I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. ³³ But whoever disowns me before men ^[others], I will disown him before my Father in heaven.

Q21. ***Whoever acknowledges me before men*** ^[others]: How might we acknowledge Jesus before others?

John 14:6 [NIV-1984]

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

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Q22. *I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven:* Why might this acknowledgement be important to you or me?

John 3:16–18 [NIV-1984]

[While verse 16 is frequently displayed on placards at ball games, the two verses (17 & 18) that follow it are equally important to understand the consequence of your choice, my choice.]

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

John 3:36 [NIV-1984]

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."



We are so accustomed to the grading systems in school and the grades we earned for tests, assignments, and coursework. I really appreciated the teachers who graded on a 'curve' – it saved me a number of times! And then grades would be posted and I'd be excited . . . or dread sharing the grade I'd earned with my parents. Then, I was introduced to the pass/fail style of grading. Either I received the equivalent of a "D" or better, or I failed. Hmmm, that was okay, especially in physical education (or gym or phy-ed) classes, where I was the equivalent of Wimpy from 'Popeye the Sailor' cartoon fame.

In God's evaluation of our lives in this world, He considers everyone equal. He makes no distinction in gender, wealth, political power, celebrity, popularity, the church you attend, skin color, mental acuity, beauty, physique, height, weight, education, the number of times you skipped church, or occupation.

God grades each of us on a pass/fail basis. He examines our lives and He asks two questions: ① did this person ever sin, even once, during his/her life in this world? If yes, then the person receives a grade of 'fail'. There is no person, except Christ Jesus, who lived a sinless life. The second question is this: ② did this person accept Christ Jesus as his/her Savior? If yes, then the person receives a grade of 'pass'. There is no gray area; there is no fence-sitting; the choice is either accept, or – by default – reject. The consequence of the person's choice is eternal: Paradise or Hell. Pass/fail.

Q23. *But whoever disowns me before men [others], I will disown him before my Father in heaven:* How might a person "disown" Jesus?

Q24. *But whoever disowns me before men [others], I will disown him before my Father in heaven:* Why is this denial important?

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Q25. *But whoever disowns me before men [others], I will disown him before my Father in heaven:* If I have accepted Christ Jesus and believe in His saving grace, do I have to worry about Jesus “disowning [me] before [the] Father”?

Yes? Maybe? No? (Thoughts?)

 “This statement [of Jesus’s] inspires a great deal of fear, since it seems to suggest that anyone who denies their faith, on earth, will be lost. However, there are reasons to expect denying Christ to be a real temptation. For the apostles and early Christians, a simple denial that Jesus was the Son of God could have been the difference between life and death, between arrest or freedom, between feeding one’s family or not. The stakes that come with being associated with Him will be high for these twelve apostles and for many others. Jesus, though, wants His followers to understand that the stakes of denying Him will be much higher than merely death on this side of eternity.

“The full context of Scripture strongly suggests that a single, panic-driven denial of Jesus will not necessarily end a believer’s opportunity to spend eternity with the Father. Christians are saved by God’s grace through faith in Jesus, not by perfect performance in acknowledging Him ([Ephesians 2:8-9](#)). Peter will most famously deny Christ at a crucial moment because of his own fear of being arrested and killed ([Matthew 26:69-74](#)). After Jesus’ resurrection and the arrival of the Holy Spirit, though, Peter will spend the rest of his life powerfully acknowledging Jesus to others ([Acts 2:1-47](#)).

“Where this warning becomes more dire is in the lives of those who consistently, or easily, dissociate themselves from Christ for the sake of health, wealth, popularity, or freedom. Those who aren’t willing to be associated with Jesus on earth won’t be allowed to claim association with Him in eternity ([Matthew 10:37](#); [Mark 8:36](#)).” [© Copyright 2002-2026 Got Questions Ministries. All rights reserved. <https://www.bibleref.com/Matthew/10/Matthew-10-33.html>, accessed: 06-28-2026.]

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