



HAVE NO FEAR OF THEM

Matthew 10:28

In many Bible translations, the words spoken by Jesus are printed in red. We've chosen to do that here as it tends to make these words more powerful when reading.

May the Lord use these pages to strengthen your faith, sharpen your discernment, and draw you closer to Him.

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Scripture

“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.”

Matthew 10:28

These are Jesus’ words as He talks to His disciples. Let’s read a bit more of this passage.

Matthew 10:26-28 “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. 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.”

Jesus spoke these words while sending His disciples out to speak on His behalf. He knew the world would not be friendly toward them. He was warning them that they would be rejected and even harmed.

Cross reference: Luke 12:4-5

“I tell you my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!”

We all throw the word ‘hell’ around, and if we stop and think about it, we all have a visual that we can conjure up. Rarely, though, does one contemplate the reality of hell. Yet, Jesus tells his disciples “...rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”

That’s a powerful warning.

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What it Means

Jesus lays it out for His disciples and makes it clear that following Him will come at great cost. But, He reminds us, without mincing words, that ‘they’ (humans, mankind, people) can...worst case scenario...kill us...kill our bodies, that is. He reminds us that God has the power to “destroy both soul and body” and cast us into hell.

If that doesn’t re-align your priorities, I’m not sure what will.

This verse isn’t about living in fear of God — it is about living with the proper perspective. What man can do to you is nothing comparatively. When we have the proper perspective, we are free from the trap of people-pleasing.

WORD STUDY

The word “hell” in Greek is **geenna** (gheh’-en-nah) and it is used figuratively as the name for the place of everlasting punishment. Scholars like to debate whether hell is real and whether God would really condemn souls to eternal punishment. The word is used 14 times in the Bible, 12 of which are Jesus’ words in the books of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. In Mark 9:43, it is equated to “the unquenchable fire.” That’s terrifying!

The Greek word for “destroy” in this verse is **apollumi** (ap-ol’-loo-mee). It means to destroy fully, perish, or completely lose.

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Discern the Truth

If we're truly **Safe in Christ**, why is it so hard to stand in faith when we come face-to-face with someone's disapproval. Why is it hard to be confident when someone else is more forceful in their convictions (even when their convictions are contrary to scripture!) Fear of man might cause you to go along with others or it might cause you to shrink in doubt or insecurity. That fear, however it manifests, is misplaced.

Jesus is the truth — the only truth. Those who oppose Him may hurt our reputation or even our bodies, but they cannot touch what matters most—our soul. The real danger we face in that moment is not their disapproval or ridicule. The real danger is compromising truth in order to avoid the discomfort that the interaction might cause.

When we remember that only God holds eternal authority, the opinions of man lose their power over us.

You can live comfortably in this world, trying to keep the peace wherever you go, or you can live the truth and keep peace with God. There is no third option and you can't do both.

Will you live to protect your body, or live to protect your soul?

When we turn to the approval of man for our peace, we turn away from God and real peace — there is one truth. Live like your life depends on it.

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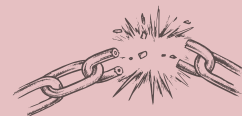
Observe & Apply

You are called, by God, to live and speak the truth. But, you feel the pull of man — we all do. We feel the pressure of the culture to fit in. Nobody wants to irritate their family and friends or alienate their co-workers. But, does the fear of irritating or alienating people, sometimes drive your conversations?

- Have you ever really contemplated the reality of your soul going to hell? To biblical hell?
- Does thinking about hell change your perspective on earthly discomforts?
- Have you recently passed on the opportunity to share the Gospel because you were afraid of being judged? If that opportunity presented itself today, would you have the courage to do things differently?
- Are you inspired when you hear someone boldly speaking the truth of God? Would you like to be that light for someone else?

ENSNARED NO MORE: DAILY MOMENTS OF DISCERNMENT

VOLUME 1 · MOMENT 4



EnsnaredLife.com

I launched EnsnaredLife.com with a desire to curate honest, truth-telling content alongside simple, purposeful things that strengthen a woman's walk with Christ or just add a little sunshine into the day. I am not a theologian or a professional blogger. I just wanted to learn something new while seeking wisdom and discernment every single day.

I value any time when I can sit alone, or in a small group, and study God's word, but I really wanted something that I could truly grab onto — something deeper than a quick devotional, more meaningful than what's usually on the shelf, yet still doable in the middle of real life. Most of all, I wanted it to be honest, without watering down or ignoring hard truths.

After much prayer about where to take this project, these **Daily Moments of Discernment** are the result. I pray that these short, standalone moments point you straight back to Scripture and help you live **Safe in Christ** — free from the snares that easily entangle us (Proverbs 29:25).

May the Lord use these pages to strengthen your faith, sharpen your discernment, and draw you closer to Him. And, may I continue to learn and grow as I create each one.

Thank you for supporting this project!

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are taken from the 2001 ESV translation.

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