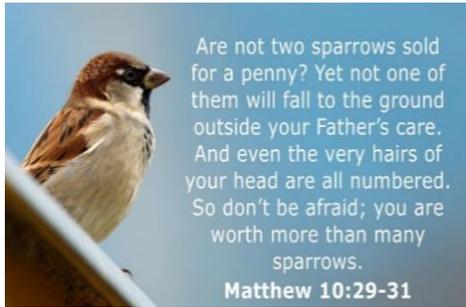


Gospel for the 12th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A



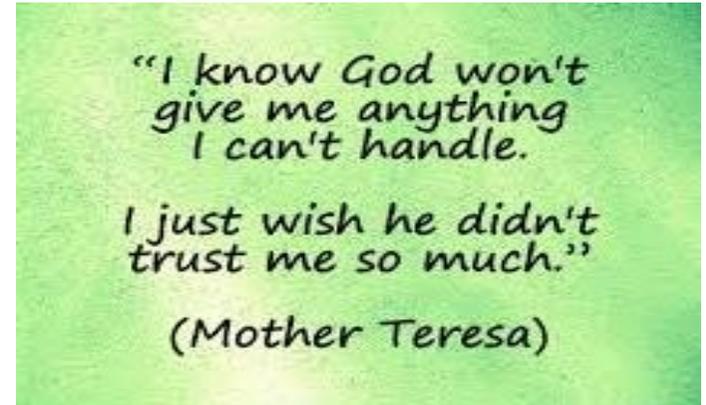
Matthew 10:26-33

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: **'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear.** What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the housetops.

'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. Therefore,

there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'



Gospel Reflection:

In today's Gospel, Jesus talks to his disciples about fear. He has told them that they will face difficult times and persecution will come to them for what they believe and for showing commitment to Him and to the Kingdom of Heaven. Their mission will be difficult and many people will not believe them, even in their own families and their own country of Israel.



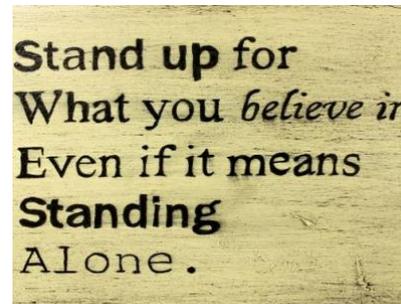
Jesus tells His friends not to be afraid but to trust in God. He reassures his disciples that God knows and cares about what happens to his creation, even down to the last sparrow. He will always be with them. This message is for us too. He will always be with us.

Although we face different challenges to those of the early followers of Jesus, we can struggle as we try to live a Christian life. Sometimes we let the opinions of others prevent us from doing what we know to be right. Knowing how much God loves us helps us to make the right choices and stand up for what we believe.

Post-it challenge:

"Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear."

Why do you think Jesus' disciples were afraid?



- ✚ What challenges have you had to face when standing up for your beliefs?
- ✚ Is it easy to stand up for what you believe?
- ✚ What advice would you give to your friends to help calm their fears?

Let us Pray:

Lord,
You know everything about us, You know our fears and struggles
Please give us the courage to reach out to others and do the right thing, especially in these difficult times. Amen

Don't let your fear decide your fate

Blessing:

The LORD bless you and keep you,
the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you,
the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. **Numbers 6:24-26**