

<sup>24</sup> “A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. <sup>25</sup> It is enough for the student to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebub, how much more the members of his household! <sup>26</sup> “So do not be afraid of them. There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. <sup>27</sup> What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. <sup>28</sup> 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. <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup> So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. <sup>32</sup> “Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. <sup>33</sup> But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.

**[Project “honed down” search results – see box at right]** Who can spot what these 3 have in common with our section from Matthew ch.10?

These are the top 3 search results which came back for “shout it from the rooftops.”

**[Zoom in to #2.]** Here is someone who has taken this “rooftop” aspect to a very literal level:

*“We are seeking sculptors to exhibit on our rooftop to an estimated 2 million people over a month. Our roof overlooks the Eastbound train lines from London Bridge .... In May ... Through social media networks we reached 379,250 people with our hashtag...”*

**[Zoom in to #3.]** You and I don't happen to have a rooftop that a couple million commuters will see. But is there a platform at your fingertips that can get a message out to masses of people? Today's rooftop is social media. That's what Bill Ebert tells you in his youtube marketing training video. With some effort via Twitter, YouTube, Google+, Facebook, etc., you can connect with a limitless audience of people.

People get it. Our culture gets it. If you have a message that you want to get out, you seize ways to communicate it to as many people as possible.

What tops your list of things important enough that you've felt, “I've got to tell people about this”?

One of the *Meditation* devotions this coming week starts with a list of examples - things you might tell others, because you know the information will help them. A little later it gives a comparison: “Christians

#### Search Results

1. [www.lyrics.net/lyrics/shout%20from%20the%20rooftops](http://www.lyrics.net/lyrics/shout%20from%20the%20rooftops)  
God is a Good God and His love endureth Because of what you've done for us, Your name right now we bless Shout it from the rooftop that, God is still alive
2. [www.4749tannerstreet.com/shout-it-from-the-rooftop-post/](http://www.4749tannerstreet.com/shout-it-from-the-rooftop-post/)  
Jun 5, 2014 - Our roof overlooks the Eastbound train lines from London Bridge...
3. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=85tNzKCh16k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=85tNzKCh16k)  
Jun 12, 2014 - **Shout it from the Rooftop** - Marketing training



today are far more likely to share a tip for stain removal than to mention how Jesus' death on the cross removes all stains from our souls." That assessment can spur us on.

Think about the importance of the message Jesus tells us to "proclaim from the rooftops." You're not trying to sell anything. This isn't a business endeavor about influencing people to increase your sales. It's not for personal gain. It's the Lord's news. The reason you have for telling it is: you, like the Lord, desire the eternal good of whoever hears.

**[Zoom in to #1.]** Interestingly enough, the "search result" that came up at #1 for the phrase "shout it from the rooftop" is a Gospel song:

*God is a Good God and His love endureth / Because of what you've done for us, Your name right now we bless / Shout it from the rooftop that, God is still alive / He will be our cloud by day and our pillar of fire by night*

So what could possibly get in the way of us telling others the news we've heard Jesus speak into our ears? We like the disciples have sat at Jesus' feet; the Lord has revealed his truth to us through His Word – the Bible.

One answer for what could possibly get in the way is: fear.

Let's tackle this topic. We come into the middle of Jesus' words of encouragement to his disciples as he is sending them out to tell people the good news about Him. He doesn't leave an "elephant in the room" (you know, he doesn't leave the obvious unaddressed). He speaks openly and directly with them about the persecution and negative responses they'll receive.

**Read Vs.24-25.** You're going to face the same pattern in our day that Jesus talks about here.

First, run through how it happened to Jesus. Jesus preached. Crowds were astonished at his teaching. "He teaches with authority," we hear them conclude. Opponents spied and seized openings to question him. He gave his Masterful replies. And they skulked away in silence. Their words couldn't stand against his Word. Jesus also did great miracles to help people. The miracles gave evidence of his identity. The crowds were amazed. "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel." But instead of acknowledging the truth of it all, Jesus' enemies in resentment retorted by smearing him: "he is of the devil."

Jesus warns us: expect the same. You and I are his students. More than that, we acknowledge: He is the Lord, our Savior. If those opposed to his message & his actions smeared him without a just reason, they will certainly treat us in no better fashion.

Now here is where we get back to how Jesus tackles the topic of fear. In spite of this, Jesus draws us on to His conclusion for us: Don't be scared to acknowledge him – Don't be silent about his saving news! He gives us three reasons for such a course of action in spite of the kind of opposition we'll encounter.

You get a huge assurance to hold onto in vs.26. **Read vs.26.**

So first Jesus makes clear: God will see to justice. He'll clear up everything in the end. Jesus is saying: "trust me. They can smear you unjustly and assault your good name. But I'll see to it that everyone knows

the truth of the matter when all is done & when the dust settles on the Last Day. That frees up your heart and mind and time. Go on acknowledging me.”

Jesus immediately adds another reason to not be scared – to not be silent about him. **Read vs.28.**

Jesus wipes out the notion that says, “If you’ve lost your life, you’ve lost everything.” That’s a worldly view with only the here and now in sight. Jesus stretches our vision to see with the eyes of faith: our Lord gives us, believers in Him, life forever more. So while we don’t in any way gloss over the injustice, pain or loss if a Christian’s life is taken by murder and in martyrdom, our eternal wellbeing is not in jeopardy. Why should we fear? No human being can do us lasting harm. Men may take our life, but they can’t take from us God’s gift of eternal life that is ours through faith in Jesus.

Even our physical lives cannot be ended apart from our Lord’s notice. He is in control. That matter comes up in Jesus’ next words, as he gives a 3<sup>rd</sup> reason to not be scared – to not be silent about him. **Read vs.29-31.**

You see how valuable you are to Him! “So don’t be afraid.” Look how much he loves you. Look how well he knows you. He’s got a running tally of your hairs. Look how well he guards and keeps you in his care. Don’t be afraid!

Now maybe – just maybe – you got a little confused as Jesus said in vs.28 “Don’t be afraid” & then “be afraid” & then back to “don’t be afraid” by vs.31. If it sounds a little confusing to your ear, remember: Jesus addresses both our old sinful self, as well as our new self with the faith God has created in us.

The old sinful self tries to get you to throw Jesus under the bus any time there is any potential for receiving push back for standing with Jesus & sharing the truth about him. How many times have you failed to talk about Jesus when the opportunity was there? Have you ever been silent because you were scared of how your faith and your witness would be received – the kind of “pushback” you might hear? You’ve maybe never felt your bodily safety was at risk, or your life was threatened. But fear has a way of attacking under far less intense circumstances. Have you felt the tempting lines? “What you say may be held against you as backward thinking, as intolerant, as reason for ridicule or exclusion” – “Your witness won’t get through anyway, so why bother” – “If God really wanted you to speak up he would have given you better skills at being quick-to-reply to objections”? Each of us is aware of what we have said – or left unsaid – about our Lord.

Jesus, with his Word, leads us to confess our sins. He leads us to ongoing repentance. He leads us to disown our sinful self’s ongoing plays from within to undercut our faith or to undermine our eagerness/effort to let everyone know about Jesus.

You see, our acknowledging of Him occurs every time he leads us to turn to him for forgiveness.

And Jesus gives us his Word, again and again, for new strength and encouragement: “Don’t be afraid. You are mine. You confess your need. You know your Holy God does not tolerate sin. You acknowledge that I took the hell your sins deserve. You place hope in the forgiveness I give you. Your guilt has been removed. I’ve wrapped you in my righteousness. The door to heaven stands open for you.”

“If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ... Christ Jesus who died, more than that who was raised to life, is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ... Nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” Romans 8.

So don't be scared to acknowledge him – don't be silent about him.

Think again about how important of a message Jesus tells us to shout from the “rooftops” of our modern day. That is say simply: tell as many people as possible about Him.

Some of you may know Penn and Teller for the magic that they do. I've never really seen them beyond a random appearance here or there. Penn – Penn Jillette is his full name – is an outspoken atheist. He's got a long list of books he has written. Even the titles leave no doubt – He's got a lot to say against God - against the Christian faith. Yet I recommend hearing something he once had to say. In a YouTube video that went viral a few years ago, Penn said:

"I don't respect people who don't proselytize. I don't respect that at all.

"If you believe that there is a Heaven and a Hell, and people could be going to Hell ... and you think it's not really worth telling them this because it would make it socially awkward, ... how much do you have to hate somebody to not proselytize [try to tell them what you know]?"

"How much do you have to hate somebody to believe that everlasting life is possible and not tell them that? I mean, if I believed beyond a shadow of a doubt that a truck was coming at you and you didn't believe it, ... there's a certain point where I tackle you, and [everlasting life] is **more** important than that."

He said that in response to a man who came back the next day after seeing his show. The man handed him the gift of a Bible, with a personalized note, and the man spoke with him about his Christian faith. Penn at last check to my knowledge is still an atheist. But he had a lot of compliments for this man.

Whatever the response – polite or hostile – the man didn't know what he'd get from Penn. He just knew, putting it in terms of vs.27 in front of us: here was a “rooftop” opportunity, and I've got the message Jesus wants me to share.

What are our goals here – as individuals and as group here? Grow and get more people here? We want to get a “critical mass” to move forward... to build a large enough sanctuary and supporting space for future ministry... to be self-supporting. While those outcomes may serve our ultimate goal, they aren't the goal itself. Please see that. Please see this: The goal – as we are built up and grow in faith – is to share God's saving truth, the news of Jesus, with as many people as possible. Amen.