

Jesus was talking with his disciples. 'Students are not better than their teacher,' he said. 'A slave is not better than his master. Instead they need to be like each other.' * He continued, 'So do not fear. Everything that is hidden will be found and all that is secret will be discovered. Anything I say to you in the dark, I want you to tell in the light. Anything whispered, you should shout from the rooftops!'

Jesus reassured them. 'Do not fear those who try to kill you, as they cannot kill your soul. Worry about the one who can destroy both the body and the soul in hell. Two sparrows are sold for only a penny. But if one of them falls to the ground, God knows this. Even the hairs on your head are counted and known by God. * Do not fear, you are much more valuable than the sparrows.'

Jesus continued, 'If you tell others that you are my follower, I will tell God in heaven that you are my follower. But if you say you are not my follower, I will tell God in heaven that you don't belong to me. I didn't come to bring peace; I came to

bring a sword. Families will turn against each other because of what I say. Anyone who loves their family more than me is not good enough to be my follower. Anyone who is not willing to take up their cross is not good enough to be my follower. If you try to hold onto your life, you will give up true life. But do not fear. If you give up your life for me, you will hold onto true life.' *

Matthew 10:24-39

