

Lesson 10 Matthew 10 24-39 cf v.24 **Jesus teaching on Christ likeness**  
*The great Pauline principle first taught in detail by Jesus*

**No.1 The status of the learner and servant**

The learners are not "above" their teachers (Greek word *υπερ*) but "like" them (Greek *ως*-as or "as if they were" ) So if the detractors called the "Master of the house" or "the Lord of the church" (the "house" is used in Israel of a "House of study" or people under a teacher)-if they call Him "Beelzebub" how much more will they call the pupils or servants "demonic". That is, "likeness of master and disciple" is fundamental to Jesus teaching. Nothing veiled will not be unveiled, nothing secret will not be known. The first principle is to be like Christ and refuse to be fearful because of the ultimate fact that all comes to God's attention

**No.2 The call for courageous witness**

Do not fear those who can kill the body but fear rather Him who can loose the body from the soul in Hell. As a note we are to expect spiritual bodies in heaven and competed bodies at the coming of Christ. Though Spirits dwell in heaven-they are the spirits of good men made perfect. It will be noted that in their *interim state* both Moses and Elijah were visible and embodied. So was the young man at the tomb. In quite another sense so are the angels for one rolled away the stone and others held the hands of Lot and his wife-and we are to be like them. God has distinctly prepared a sort of Hell life for the disobedient-where there is no body of any kind-this is not heaven life! Thus the fear that drives us to evangelise and others to repent is this solemn irreversible state. As a result we are to announce the kingdom and its tidings with fortitude -telling out the things that are dark and unknown by men about the future state and the things that have been made known to believers-so that people are prepared for the return of Christ-we need to proclaim from the rooftops.

**No.3 The preciousness of Christians**

Not a sparrow falls but God knows. "You are very different from hosts of sparrows"( that is, "sparrows killed in sacrifice")-"to me you are more precious" our Lord appreciates sacrifice made not to atone for sin but sacrifice in obedience to Him) No Christian martyr falls but God sees it. Remember Stephen-it is ever so. Every hair of the head is numbered. As we grow older the Lord sees our weakness. So let us not fear from incident or decrepitude. Let us be confessors of Jesus as Saviour as he will be the more joyous to confess us before the Father -to deny Jesus-perish the thought-is to be denied in the highest court-in the day of judgement.

**No.4 The acceptance of the Cross: Christ first.**

Following Jesus will of necessity mean that even the bond of family solidarity will not hold. Members will be for or against Jesus. The principle is love (*φιλεω* Greek term for "affection") for Jesus. He is our first friend and that friendship cannot be compromised even by obedience to family. The "worthiness" of Christ is that He as our creator shed His blood for us. This demands first loyalty. So we are to voluntarily take the way of the cross. To lose our lives is to discover them afresh here and in heaven.

**From paper to practice (fill in the blanks)**



1. Give an example Jesus used of his teaching "like master like disciple" P \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ N
2. To what symbol in Mark 8.34 is the distinctive mark of Christ-likeness -described by Paul as "denying self" allied? The \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
3. How will Christ likeness bring unity and cause division? Think about this issue!