

## Year A 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday Homily Outline

This gospel is part of a series of instructions Jesus gives to the disciples as he prepares to send them out on their inaugural mission. The flow and coherence can seem a bit strange so let's go through it:

JESUS SAID TO THE TWELVE:  
"FEAR NO ONE.

NOTHING IS CONCEALED THAT WILL NOT BE REVEALED,  
NOR SECRET THAT WILL NOT BE KNOWN.

WHAT I SAY TO YOU IN THE DARKNESS, SPEAK IN THE LIGHT;  
WHAT YOU HEAR WHISPERED, PROCLAIM ON THE ROOFTOPS.

AND 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 GEHENNA.

ARE NOT TWO SPARROWS SOLD FOR A SMALL COIN?  
YET NOT ONE OF THEM FALLS TO THE GROUND WITHOUT YOUR FATHER'S  
KNOWLEDGE.  
EVEN ALL THE HAIRS OF YOUR HEAD ARE COUNTED.  
SO DO NOT BE AFRAID; YOU ARE WORTH MORE THAN MANY SPARROWS.

EVERYONE WHO ACKNOWLEDGES ME BEFORE OTHERS  
I WILL ACKNOWLEDGE BEFORE MY HEAVENLY FATHER.  
BUT WHOEVER DENIES ME BEFORE OTHERS,  
I WILL DENY BEFORE MY HEAVENLY FATHER."

### 1. The recurring refrain:

"FEAR NO ONE." "AND DO NOT BE AFRAID..." "SO DO NOT BE AFRAID..."

The Scriptures in total have 365 occasions in which God says to his people, "do not be afraid" in one form or another, but there is also this occasion on which our Lord says, "Be afraid!" "Be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna." This is the one anxiety which is necessary. Fear of eternal separation from God.

*What should I be afraid of?*

**2. It's worth trying to consider how precious we are to the Lord**

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