



Jesus said to his disciples:

"Don't be afraid of anyone! Everything that is hidden will be found out, and every secret will be known.

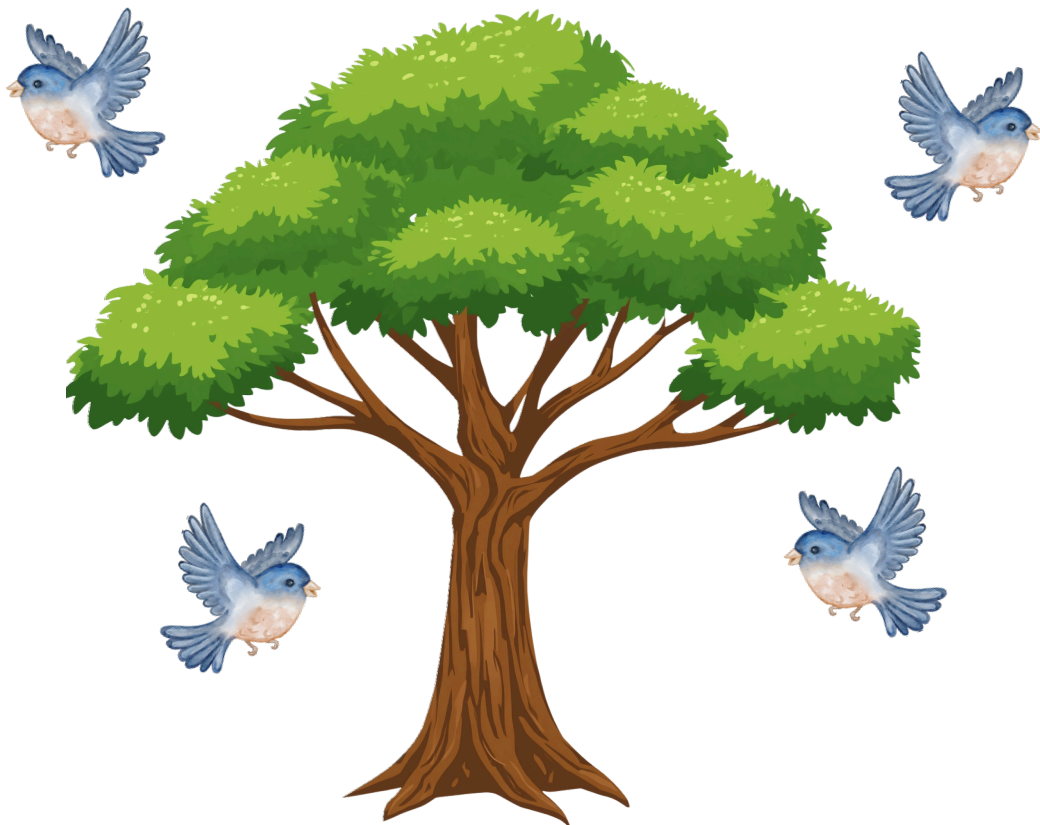
"Whatever I say to you in the dark, you must tell in the light.

And you must announce from the housetops whatever I have whispered to you.

"Don't be afraid of people. They can kill you, but they cannot harm your soul. Instead, you should fear God who can destroy both your body and your soul in hell.

"Aren't two sparrows sold for only a penny? But your Father knows when any one of them falls to the ground. Even the hairs on your head are counted. So don't be afraid!

You are worth much more than many sparrows."



Year A - 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 10:26-33

Do not be afraid



Introduction

- Today Jesus reminds us that God is with us in every part of our lives so we should not be afraid.
- Jesus also tells us that we have a job to do: he wants us to 'announce from the housetops whatever I have whispered to you'.

Message

- In today's gospel Jesus is talking to his disciples, knowing that they are about to go on their mission. Through our baptism, we are also sent on God's mission.
- Like the disciples, Jesus wants us to be confident in our faith in God's presence in our words and actions.
- At the time of Jesus, sparrows were sold in marketplaces as inexpensive food for the poor and so were of little value.
- If God holds common sparrows in such high regard, then of how much greater value are God's beloved children?
- God's care for us is always present, even in the smallest details of our lives - 'Even the number of hairs on your head are counted'.
- Because of this we have no reason to fear - three times Jesus tells us 'Do not be afraid!' (Repetition in scripture is always a sign that Jesus has something really important for us to know!)

Discussion

- Begin by checking with the children if there are any words or phrases that they don't understand. Also check if there are any words or phrases that stood out for them
- Do you know how many teeth you have? How tall you are? How about how many hairs you have on your head?
- I wonder why Jesus says 'Even the hairs on your head are counted.' How do you feel knowing that God knows you in so much detail?
- I wonder why God cares for us so deeply?
- If this is how much God loves and cares for us, how should we treat other people who are also sons and daughters of God?
- This week remember that because God is looking after each one of us, do not to be afraid, we can be brave and speak up and tell others about Jesus and the things he said and did.
- *Note: the average person has about 100,000 hairs on their head at one time*

