

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Matthew 10: 24-39

24. The disciple is not above his master – I speak of social status - nor the servant above his lord, nor the cook above the bottle-washer. Oh wait. That last one doesn't sound right but it will serve a purpose.
25. It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord, and the cook be as the bottle-washer. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, or Ashibotheth, or even Hepsibah, how much more shall they call them of his household, even unto names – such as Cythraul in Wales - that are unpronounceable?
26. Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed, especially at times of washing and bathing, even in the small hours; and hid beneath layers of chiffon and tweed and fashionable garments, that shall not be known. Verily.
27. What I tell you in darkness because somebody hath extinguished the candle, that speak ye in light when no lantern is required: and what ye hear in the ear, even unto the incessant ringing that driveth the person unto desperation, or the muffled sounds that occur when water hath entered the canal or you have ascended unto the heights, that preach ye upon the housetops, but only with permission of the owner and provision of a stout ladder.
28. And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Also be on your guard against amateur dentists. And those who do not treat our souls.
29. Is not a loaf of bread sold for a penny, taking into account inflation and profit margins? and not a crumb shall fall from a slice that is not noticed by the baker? And are not two sparrows sold for a farthing – see my previous economic statement? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. And are there not occasional bargains whereby when one is purchased another is given freely? What's that? An acronym? Nothing comes to mind.
30. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered, yes, even yours, Thaddeus, though the counting in your case shall be swift.
31. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows, or even several slices of bread that maketh a lunch. What? No, not a sparrow sandwich. Ew!
32. Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, or women, or others, him, or her, or them will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven. But stand not upon the street corners and cry My name. Or any name, for that matter, for that's inviting trouble. Yes, Bartholemew, you may well nod.
33. And freely use humour to spread My word, for in laughter lies much truth. But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. And that's no laughing matter.
34. Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a pointed stick and a goad with nobbles, and yea, verily, even a sword. And a big one, to boot.
35. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. For this is an easy task and requireth not much effort. In fact many have started without Me.
36. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household, or workplace, or even those with whom he congregates for leisure. And don't get Me started on politics or immigration or refugees.
37. He that loveth father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And that loveth his neighbour more than Me is not worthy of Me. And they that love their neighbour's ass shall be an anathema unto Me.
38. And he that taketh not his cross and overnight bag, and followeth after Me, is not worthy of Me.
39. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for My sake shall find it. But woe unto them that lose their purse or wallet, for their days shall be super-difficult and barren.