

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday April 27, 2026 - Acts 4: 10-12

"Know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. He is 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.' Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

Read Acts 4 for meditation and inspiration.



Wendy's Loxahatchee, FL

FEAR NOT



As the saying goes, "It's all fun and games until someone tosses an alligator in the drive-thru window." Well, maybe that's not exactly how the saying goes, but believe it or not, that's how a recent CNN news story began.

When ABC picked up the story, they reported that a South Florida man was taken into custody after being accused of placing an order at a Loxahatchee, Florida Wendy's fast-food restaurant, taking his drink, and then pitching a three-and-a-half-foot gator through the window. Joshua Douglas James, 23, of Jupiter, Florida, allegedly admitted to officials that he picked up the American alligator on the side of a road and later threw it from his white pickup truck into the Wendy's kitchen after ordering a large soft drink, according to an Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, incident report obtained by ABC News.

The alligator was later seized by Florida FWCC officers and released into a nearby canal, the report said. James now faces multiple charges, including aggravated

assault with a deadly weapon (I guess in this instance you could call a gator a deadly weapon) without intent to kill and unlawful possession and transportation of an alligator, according to the Florida FWCC incident report and Palm Beach County online court records. When James appeared in court, a judge set his bail at \$6,000 and ordered that he stay out of all Wendy's (to, I am sure, the relief of all Wendy employees) restaurants, according to court records.

There's not much else to note about the incident except a surprising statement from a Florida Department of Wildlife scientist. He explained there was no need for the employee to be afraid. He said it was the poor gator that was likely most frightened.

"There is no need to be afraid," Jesus says in today's Gospel Lesson. At this point in His ministry, Jesus and His friends are riding the crest of a rising wave of popularity. The crowds had turned into multitudes. Whole towns had come to see and great this powerful man of God who was teaching in one particular passage who to fear saying: *"So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, utter in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim upon the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father's will. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven."* (Matthew 10:26-33)

Good to remember that it is God's eternal home that is your true dwelling place and nothing on this earth can ever take that away from those who call upon the name of Jesus. Even an unexpected gator!!!

Peace of Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roger".

Roger