

## **READ whole passage with congregation.**

For Context, Jesus in this passage is preparing the disciples before He sends them out. He prepares them by:

- Giving the truth: That they will be persecuted and rejected because of the message. And the effects/consequences of the message.
- Giving instruction
- Giving comfort/affirmation

This alone is good example that Jesus sets for how we should prepare those that we're sending out, whether it be our kids, students, employees.

Now in these verses we continue

READ v24-26

What a true statement!

Jesus is saying if I'm the head honcho and they called me Satan, (Beelzebub a pagan deity equated to Satan) and rejected me. How much more are they going to reject you my followers.

Jesus is also giving us wisdom in general. How many times I thought that I was better than the one who taught me, every time I'm humbled! We've all had these experiences right? We thought we knew better than our parents, or our boss, but then either immediately or with time we saw that they knew what they were talking about.

Some make the mistake in thinking that they can preach the gospel in a better way than Jesus so that they won't be rejected, I'm sorry to break it to you but we aren't better than Jesus.

Notice the titles that Jesus gives Himself: Teacher and Master.

Notice what our titles are: Disciple and Servant

Do we recognize this?

That He's our teacher and we're His disciples.

That He's our master and we're His servants.

Some don't mind being a disciple, but many have a problem with being a servant.

In other words you like learning from Jesus, but not living for Jesus. "As long as His teachings don't oppose the way I live my life then I'm ok with that." Jesus will state clearly that He doesn't work like that.

A disciple and a servant are inseparable, this was the understanding of the Jews and other cultures at the time. (like the Greeks) To be a disciple of someone you "attached" yourself to them you were a servant to them not just a learner.

This is especially true when it comes to following Jesus.

Let's understand this, the word master in v24 means lord (κύριος- kyrios) and the word servant means slave. (δούλος- doulos)

Please don't make the mistake of equating this with forced slavery with cruel masters. There is much to be said about what the Bible says about slavery, the Bible doesn't condone it in the way most of us think. If you

would like to talk more about this topic I would love to talk with you. But this is what we need to understand that Jesus is the perfect and good Master, He is loving, gracious, merciful, He is truth and righteousness. Jesus never sinned (Hebrews 4:15) Man is flawed and infected by sin which in turn has caused extreme pain and destruction.

The Jewish people would have considered it to be a great honour to be called a slave of God, this was the same title of Abraham, Moses, Joshua, David, Isaiah, etc. So for Jesus to say this to the disciple would have meant the world to them, we see this in the writings of the apostles they were proud to say they were slaves of Christ.

To be a slave of Christ is both a badge of honour and humility, as it's been said many times, "Rejoice! You are a servant of God! But remember, you are a servant of God"

You can't pick and choose what you like, you must lay your life down and accept Jesus is Lord.

It's hard to do this. This isn't a life filled with roses, Jesus is teaching the disciples this. But Jesus also says at the end of Matthew chapter 11, "My Yoke is easy and My burden is light." So how could being Jesus' disciple both be easy and hard? We'll teach on that passage when it comes, but here Jesus is showing the disciples and us how we can withstand these persecutions.

READ v26-31

Do not fear is repeated 3 times, you think Jesus wants us not to fear? It's like when my wife says, "Can you take out the garbage?" The first two times are just suggestions, but when she says it the third time I know she means it! In fact, scripture repeats this multiple times Isaiah 41:10

| Isaiah 41:10 (NKJV)

| Fear not, for I *am* with you;  
| Be not dismayed, for I *am* your God.  
| I will strengthen you,  
| Yes, I will help you,  
| I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

### **2 Timothy 1:7 NKJV**

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

But this is a real thing in scripture, if something is repeated three times it's something to pay attention to.

Jesus explains in these verses that there is no need to fear, because God is here.

- He will reveal the wickedness and evil plots that are done in secret to oppose the Gospel.
- He is the final Judge. Man is not.
- He cares about us deeply

Warren Weirsbe explains verses 26-27 well

### **The Bible Exposition Commentary Chapter Eight: The King's Ambassadors (Matthew 10)**

The enemies of Christ use secret and deceptive means to oppose the Gospel. But true believers are open and courageous in their lives and witness. We have nothing to hide.

We should go out and proclaim the Gospel saying confidently Romans 1:16

| Romans 1:16 (NKJV)

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Jesus said, "We are the light of the world, who in their right mind would put a bucket over a light they want to use!" - My paraphrase.

v28

Death is something we all will face and it can be scary, but we know that there is more after death. If you are a believer you don't have to be afraid of death. Not that you should go try to die but as a believer we have eternity life after death, so that means we shouldn't let death dictate whether we preach the gospel or not.

v29-31

Sparrows at the time were so inexpensive that they would throw in an extra one when you bought one, yet God knows of every sparrow. So if he cares that much about a bird, how much more does he care about you? Every hair on your head is numbered, not in sum but individually.

It's ok to trust God, He has you in His hands. He deeply cares for you.

READ v32-33

This is simple yet sobering. It goes back to what we saw before, there is no in-between with Jesus. You either live for Him or you don't. Jesus is not talking about someone like Peter who denies Him out of fear or pressure as there is restoration for those who do on this earth. I'm thankful for this because there was a time in my life I did this, I remember one of my friends asking me in school, "Are you a Christian?" I said "Yah, but I'm not like religious." By that I meant, "I am by name but not by action" I was scared

what he would've thought of me, I don't know why, but I was. Yet God did not give up on me, He brought restoration just like He did to Peter.

God offers this restoration to all on this earth, but once our time is up and we die, we have no second chance.

**Hebrews 9:27 NKJV**

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

This Judgment is two fold, one for our eternity and one for what we've done. The first is simple did you deny Christ or did you confess Him as you Lord and Savior?

All us will fail the first judgment because all of us have sinned, the only way to pass this judgment is to admit your a sinner in need of a savior and ask Jesus to be savior and Lord of your Life. This is what confessing Jesus means. If you have done this you will inherit eternal life.

The second judgment is different, your reward for what you have done on this earth. God will have a fire and set all of what we've done on this fire, those things that have no value will burn away and whatever is left standing is our reward.

Pray