

# Matthew 10:34-42

June 16, 2024

“Commit to Jesus”

## INTRODUCTION

Read-through Matthew 10:32-42

“Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. 33 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

34 “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. 35 For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; 36 and ‘a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.’ 37 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. 39 He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

40 “He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. 41 He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man’s reward. 42 And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.”

Matthew chapter 10 is a great chapter loaded with wise instruction Jesus gives His disciples. This is the chapter where Jesus sends out the twelve disciples to do ministry, **to the lost sheep of the house of Israel (vs 6)**, preaching **the kingdom of heaven is at hand (vs 7)**. So this chapter is Jesus preparing them for that. Giving instruction, teaching them, and warning them too.

Chapter 10 is the second sermon of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew, Sermon on the Mount **chapter 5-7**, and now this little pep talk he gives to the disciples before they’re sent out on their short term missions trip.

In the words that Jesus has to share here are some earth shattering truths that even Christians today need to hear and apply.

Truth is necessary to be spoken, especially by those who are on the side of truth. However, the truth can be devastating. It can hit you like a ton of bricks and leave you humbled.

Jesus did not shy away from speaking truth. He was bold in speaking hard but true sayings, but He knew the correct way to speak it.

Jesus is our ultimate example we want to speak the truth of God’s word just as Jesus did, but we need to make sure we do it the way that Jesus did as well.

Jesus shared hard truths, but He did so in love. There is a special relationship between Truth and Love that is so important to know

I want to share a quote that I often think about. I thought it might be a good guide for us as we break down Jesus’ words in today’s passage, especially connecting this relationship between Truth and Love.

“Truth without love is brutality, and love without truth is hypocrisy.” - Warren Wiersbe

What happens when you share a truth with someone un-lovingly? It would be brutal. You may come across as apathetic, harsh, hurtful.

What happens when you conceal the truth in order to love people? You are being hypocritical. Ignoring the truths you say you believe in for what? To avoid confrontation?

Both of those options end messy. Truth and Love go hand and hand with each other.

Even as we look at our passage today and the hard warnings that Jesus gives his disciples, His motivation is love.

May we follow Jesus' example in speaking the truth in love.

#### Outline

- Family Hostility (vs 34-36)
- Family Priorities (vs 37-39)
- Eternal Rewards (vs 40-42)

#### VERSES 32-33

Matthew 10:32-33 - “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. 33 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.”

Daniel covered these verses last Sunday, but they give us great context for our passage. They act as the foundation for what it said next.

What we have here is an action & a reaction.

Confessing Jesus boldly before men is necessary as followers of Him.

There is no such thing as a secret Christian. Someone who claims to be Christian, goes to church, occasionally reads their bible, but none of their non Christian friends are aware of their 'faith.'

You cannot be a Christian and live that way. A "secret christian" is an oxymoron.

It's simple! When we represent Jesus before Men on earth, He will represent us before God in Heaven.

The Apostle Paul also expounds on this point in 2 Corinthians 5:10 when he talks about the Bema Seat, the judgment seat of Christ where every thing the Christian does in this life will be evaluated - “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

**If we aren't public in our commitment to Jesus, why should we expect Him to be public about His commitment to us?**

Refusing to speak up for Christ will cost us reward and even glory in God's kingdom.

Romans 8:17 - “and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”

2 Timothy 2:12 - “If we endure, We shall also reign with *Him*. If we deny *Him*, He also will deny us.”

Let Romans 1:16 be true as we live for Jesus “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes...”

Think of the Apostles in Acts 5:40-41 who after being beaten they **rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.**

(“And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 So they departed from the presence of the council, **rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.**”  
- Acts 5:40-41)

What a great example that is of what commitment to Christ looks like.

So often we struggle within ourselves when it comes to living for us or living for Christ. Can I just give the simple exhortation to all of us including myself?

**Live for Christ, He is so worth it.**

### **VERSES 34-36 - Family Hostility**

Matthew 10:34-36 - “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. 35 For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; 36 and ‘a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.’”

This is a great passage to cover on Father Day! Isn’t today supposed to bring families together? But in this passage, Jesus warns that He will “**set a man against his father?**” What is going on?? What does this mean??

He says “**Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth...**” This seems a little misleading doesn’t it? Because the message of Jesus definitely is one of peace. The Sermon on the Mount is a prime example:

“**Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.**” (Matt 5:9)

“**whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.**” (Matt 5:39)

“**If anyone tries to take your tunic, let him have your cloak also**” (Matt 5:40)

He is even called the “**Prince of Peace**” (Isaiah 9:6)

But Jesus tells his disciples not to **think that [He] came to bring peace on earth...**

The peace of God can absolutely be achieved through Jesus, but the reality of Christ is ultimately divisive.

It’s also worth noting that Jesus will ultimately bring peace, but not immediately, and this day is not yet here.

David Guzik explains this so simply and clearly;

“**[The message of Jesus] is a message of peace that divides between those who choose it and those who reject it.**” - David Guzik

These words of Jesus are a warning. He wants His disciples to be prepared when they undoubtedly witness the division that He’s referring to.

So divisive at times, it is like a **sword** cutting through family relationships.

Don’t mistake the effect of His coming for the purpose of His coming. Jesus came to bring Salvation to the world, not to bring the sword upon the world. The reality is that people will inevitably reject His message of salvation, the the effect of a dividing sword will occur.

If you have ever experienced the sword as a christian, then you have experienced the division and hostility that comes from being identified with Jesus.

Jesus said in **verse 37** "I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; 36 and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.'"

Experiencing tension or division in your relationships with family members because of your faith sucks. There's only so much you can do! Pray, keep loving them, continue to speak and live out the Gospel for them, but these situations are not easy.

Jesus personally went through this division. His own brothers rejected his message "not even his brothers believed in him" (John 7:5)

Even when visiting Nazareth, His hometown, He was rejected by His own people who attempted to throw Him off a cliff!

"a prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household" (Matt. 13:57)

This is also a common trend for Christians throughout history, it is often the the people closest to them who reject the message of Jesus they attempt to share.

So keep this in mind, relationships will be tested when you fully commit to Christ.

Look at the big picture, the Gospel is supposed to shake people up. It is so true and the reality of it should make the sinner uncomfortable.

The nature of the Gospel is confrontational, not because you are telling the person how bad they are but are holding up a mirror so they can see the issues for themselves.

The beauty of the Gospel is that it doesn't just reveal our problem, it also offers us the solution. Jesus is the way to salvation.

So if you are preaching the Gospel, but have no experience with people being upset by it, you may want to rethink if you are actually presenting the true gospel.

### **VERSES 37-39 - Family Priorities**

**Matthew 10:37-39** - "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. 39 He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it."

This passage is all about the cost of discipleship. What are the costs of following Jesus? Have you taken the time to count them? These verses here do a good job laying some of those costs out for us.

"Whoever loves father... or mother... or son... or daughter more than [Jesus] is not worthy of Jesus"  
How are we prioritizing our relationships in Life? Are we truly giving Jesus the top spot in our lives?

This shouldn't be a surprise to us since it's essentially the greatest commandment according to Jesus, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"<sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." - Matthew 22:36-40

It's a great, and important, even a biblical thing for us to be devoted to our own households, but it must not come before our devotion to Christ.

Jesus is to be followed and served supremely.

He then goes on to say in verse 38 **"he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me."**

Jesus took up the cross for us, the least we can do is take up our cross for Him.

Know that this isn't a request, it's a demand.

This is another important aspect to the cost of discipleship, just look at the way this command of Jesus is phrased in [Luke 9:23](#) **"Then He said to *them* all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."**

Here's the 3 step guide to following Jesus

1. **Deny yourself** (Put off yourself)
2. **Take up your cross daily** (Die to yourself, a daily responsibility)
3. **Follow Him** (Be obedient to what he has instructed)

This verse implies commitment to the extent of being willing to die for something.

In Jesus' day the cross meant one thing, death. There were no negotiations, no ifs ands or buts, no looking back, the cross equals death.

So Jesus telling us to take up our cross means that we commit to dying to self so that we may live for Jesus.

We make an effort to crucify our flesh daily in obedience to Him.

**"Salvation is free... but discipleship will cost you your life." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

Imagine how the disciples must've took these words, even though they hadn't yet seen Jesus nailed to the cross, the disciples were very familiar with Roman Crucifixion.

It was a common practice during this time, and it was done in public places, along high trafficked roads, and common areas. They would have seen the horrors with their own eyes.

Now this is the first time the word cross is mentioned in Matthew's gospel and it's Jesus laying it out as a command to follow him. Pretty shocking stuff to hear.

Of course Jesus hasn't been killed on the cross yet, but he will, He knew He would even while laying out this command for His disciples to follow. Talk about practicing what you preach.

Then we get to these words in **verse 39** **"He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it."**

What kind of Biblical Paradox is this!? If I live I'll die, but I need to die to live?

We have here a contrast between the Old man and the New man. The old man lives for self, the pleasures of the world, the desires of the flesh, the vain things in life that will not satisfy and will not last. If you're building your life on these things you will surely lose your life.

**"For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" [Matthew 16:26](#)**

You must give up your own life in order to live for Christ.

A great example of a life lived in accordance to this verse is a missionary named Henry Martyn. He went to India and spent a lifetime there.

Already in India he had done more than his share of missionary service when he announced that he was going to go to persia because God had laid it upon his heart to translate the New Testament and the Psalms into the persian language.

By then he was an old man.

They told him that if he stayed in India he would die because of the heat. And then they told him that persia was hotter than India. But he went nonetheless. Studied the persian language. Translated the entire New Testament and the Psalms in nine months. And then he was told that he couldn't print it or circulate it until he received the Shah's permission. So he traveled 800 miles to Tehran, and he was denied permission to see the Shah. He turned around and made a 400 mile trip to find the British ambassador. The ambassador gave him the proper kinds of papers and so forth and sent him back to the Shah. So he traveled another 400 miles... He rode this at night on the back of a mule, and rested during the daytime...protected only by a strip of canvas from the sweltering desert heat.

He finally arrived and was received by the Shah who gave him permission for the Scriptures to be printed and circulated in persia.

Ten days later in he died. But shortly before he had written in his diary this statement: "I sat and thought with sweet comfort and peace of my God. In solitude my Companion, my Friend, and Comforter."

Certainly not a life of ease but a life worth remembering.

What a great picture of genuine discipleship.

What I love about Henry's story is that he was so consumed with the cause the Lord placed on his heart that there was no other thought for his own life.

**"He who loses his life for My sake will find it."**

### **VERSES 40-42 - Eternal Rewards**

**Matthew 10:40-42 - "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. 41 He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. 42 And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward."**

This is the upside to all the the harsh warnings from our passage. As we endure these in life, we are promised reward.

**"Whoever receives the disciples sent by Jesus also receive Jesus"**

We are representatives of Jesus, wherever we go Jesus comes with, whoever receives us receives Jesus also.

Because the disciples went out as Jesus' representatives to carry on His ministry, any good that was done to them was as if it was done to Jesus Himself.

We're also told about the reward that will be given to those who received Jesus' representatives. Just as someone who received a prophet would receive a prophets' reward, supporting God's servants in their ministry is enough for God to give a share of their reward.

We may not hold the title of prophet, but we are Jesus's representatives here on earth.

We have the word of God and we are commanded to go out and share it with people.

We, like a prophet, go in the Lord to do the will of God and speak His truth to people, and we will have our reward in doing so.

And finally Verse 42 says “whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.”

**little ones** refers to the disciples. Jesus does not want his disciples to lose the joys of the next life by focusing on the pleasures of this world, just like that verse [Matthew 16:26](#) clearly says.

I think the application of [verse 42](#) is clear, Live a compassionate and generous life for Christ.

Even little acts of service like giving a cup of cold water to someone may seem insignificant to us but to God they are so meaningful, and for them we will certainly receive our reward.

## CONCLUSION

Looking at this passage I see that following Jesus comes at a cost.

We may experience the pain of losing our loved ones due to the gospel.

We may go through persecution for our faith which can be so brutal.

We may even be ridiculed or reviled for our faith.

But all of this hardship we may experience in this life will eventually be offset in the coming Kingdom.

I mean be reminded what [Romans 8:18](#) tells us “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”

We have so much hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, that we can be assured, because of Him this is all so worth it. He is so worth it.

Commit yourself to Him.

If you haven't received Him yet as your own Saviour, please consider it today. He wants a relationship with you. He is knocking on the door of your heart.

He took the full punishment for our sins upon Himself in His sacrifice on the cross. He was buried, and rose from the grave defeating death once for all.

By Him is forgiveness of our sins, through Him we can have eternal life, and in Him is our Salvation.

You can receive Him into your life right now. If you've made that decision we have some people up here that would love to meet you and talk with you.

Commit yourself to Him.

If you have been walking with Jesus for a time. I hope today you consider what that next step of commitment is for you.

Is it living out your faith more publicly? To not deny Jesus before men?

Is it finally forsaking some of the things of this world you've been holding on to?

Is it actually giving Jesus full control of your life, denying yourself once for all?

Whatever it might be, and whatever that may look like, my prayer today is that we would do it. Whatever it takes, in faith we would take that step toward our Saviour.

We have the great opportunity of baptisms coming up. If that's something you've been sitting on, or maybe right now considering, getting baptized might be that next step of commitment the Lord leading you to. What a great thing it is to publicly and outwardly declare your faith to Jesus, that your family in Christ can come alongside you in exhortation.

Think about it pray about it.

Continue to commit to Jesus.