
INTRODUCTION: THE RIDDLES OF FAITH (Mt.13:10f, 52; Ps49:4; Prv.1:6; Ezk17:2; Lk11:9 /Heb5:12f)

I. FOCUS ON THE FAMILY (Mt.10:34-39; see Lk.12:51-53; 14:25-27; 17:33; Jn.12:25)

A. THE MASTER AT WAR (Mt.10:34-36; Lk.12:51-53; see Rev.6:4,16)

1. *severing sword vs. peace* (Mt.10:34; Lk.12:51; see Heb.4:12; Mt.25:32f; Acts 28:24; Ps.1,2)
2. *a house divided* (Mt.10:35; Lk.12:52,53; see 1Cor.11:19; Mt.12:25; e.g., American Civil War)
3. *beloved enemies* (Mt.10:36; see Micah 7:5,6)

B. HIS DISCIPLES AT WAR (Mt.10:37-39; Lk.14:25-27; 17:33; Jn.12:25; 21:15 /Mt.16:25; Mk.8:35; Lk.9:24)

1. *the absolute priority of the Master* (Mt.10:37f; Lk.14:26; see Col.1:15f; 2:9; Heb.1:3)
2. *hate them = love Him more than them* (Lk.14:26; Mt.10:37f; see Jn.12:25; Gen.22:12; 29:30,32; Rom.9:13; Acts 5:29; Dt.10:12=Mt.22:37)
3. *cross: losing your happy home* (Mt.10:38//37a//37b; Lk.12:51f; see Mic.7:5,6; Job 2:9; Jn.16:2)
4. *losing your whole life* (Mt.10:39a(34f); see Lk.17:33; Jn.14:25)
5. *for the sake of Jesus* (Mt.10:39; see 16:25; Mk.8:35; Lk.9:24; see 1Pt.4:15f)

II. THE COST & BENEFIT OF DISCIPLESHIP

A. PEACE WITH GOD MEANS MUTUAL WAR WITH HIS ENEMIES (Mt.10:34f; see Ps.26:5; 31:6; 139:21 /2Chr.19:2; 2Cor.6:14 /Rom.12:18)

B. EVEN WHEN THESE ARE THOSE CLOSEST TO YOU (Dt.13:6f; Ex.32:27; see 1Kngs.19:20; Acts 15:39; 1Cor.5:1f)

C. RECEIVE, BEAR: AN ASSIGNMENT, NOT AN AMBITION (Mt.10:38; Lk.14:37; see Mt.26:39)

D. LOVE: ALL OR NOTHING (Mt.10:37f; Lk.14:26f; see Dt.6:5,etc.=Mt.22:37,etc.; see Gen.22:1f; Lk.5:11,28; 14:33; Jn.21:15)

E. SOUL, HOUSE: YOUR WHOLE BEING (Mt.10:39(16:25,etc.); Lk.17:33; Jn.14:25; see Mt.10:35; Lk.12:52; 2Cor.5:1f)

F. THE RIDDLE OF REDEMPTION: GAIN BY LOSING (Mt.10:39; Lk.17:33; Jn.12:25; see Rom.6:8; 2Tm.2:11; Col.2:12; see Jn.12:24,25; 1Cor.15:35f)

G. KEEP, PRESERVE: THE *VERY SAME THING* (Lk.17:33; Jn.12:25; see Mk.10:28-30; Job 42:10f; Heb.11:19 (Lk.7:15; 8:51; 2Kngs.4:36); also Jn.11:25f; 20:27f; 1Cor.15:35f)

III. DO THE IMPOSSIBLE! (see Lk.14:26f,33; 18:22,27f; Jn.6:66)

A. CONSIDER THE ISSUE! (Mt.10:37f; Lk.14:26f; see Mt.13:45f)

B. COUNT THE COST! (Mt.10:34f; Lk.14:25f; 28-33)

C. PAY THE COST! (Mt.13:46; 19:27; Phil.3:7f; Gal.6:14; see Col.2:12; see 1Cor.7:29f)

D. BEWARE OF DECEPTION! (Mk.7:5f; Jn.7:23; Acts 5:29; see 2Tm.3:14-17)

E. LOVING YOUR ENEMIES DOES NOT MAKE THEM YOUR FRIENDS! (Mt.10:37f; Lk.14:26f; see Lk.6:27f but Ps.26:5,1f; 2Cor.6:14f)

F. WAIT PATIENTLY FOR THE BENEFIT! (Mt.10:39; Lk.17:33; Jn.12:25; see Mt.19:24f; Mk.10:25f; Lk.18:25f; see Job 42:10f; Jms.5:7)