

Matthew 10:34-42 – Foxhole Friends

Huntingdon Missionary Baptist Church – Sunday, April 21, 2024 PM

Context: Jesus just prayed for laborers to enter the white fields

- Three chapters of preaching; two chapters of miracles and signs
- Jesus called the 12 and is preparing them for a limited mission to Israel; (replicate His Message & Ministry & Manner)
- Jesus' instruction goes beyond the immediate mission and prepares them for the dangers of spreading the gospel
 - You are sheep amid wolves – **Be as wise as serpents and gentle as doves.**
 - You will be persecuted and even delivered over to death – **Do not be afraid of them.**
 - Your response will ultimately reveal your true connection to Christ. – **I will confess you before the Father.**

Matt 10:34-42 – Final Instructions

[No] Peace on Earth

Matt 10:34-36 *Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. ³⁵For 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. ³⁶And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.*

This is the verse that ruined a thousand Christmas cards.

What about: Luke 2:14 *Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, Good will toward men.*

Did Jesus come to make peace or not?

- **Romans 5:10** *For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. **We were enemies of God before salvation.***
- **Romans 5:1** *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: **The peace Jesus came to broker is between man and God.***
- **Matthew 10:24-25** *The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household? **Peace with God... and following God is going to set us odds with those who remain His enemies.***

How does this truth impact our expectations?

- Jesus was a horrible salesman.
Yet, the honest presentation of the truth has not stopped the progress of the gospel!
- Sometimes we unintentionally fail to disclose what it means to be a faithful Christian.
We can misinterpret “my yoke is easy and my burden is light”
“every burdens getting lighter, every cloud is silver lined” – I Know Who Holds Tomorrow
“Ever since Jesus saved and pardoned, I have been singing every day...”
“Never a thought of sad repining, Jesus is with me this I know...” – I've Never Been Sorry
repine – it to express sorrow or discontent
- One of the purposes of our time together is to prepare us to suffer.
You are either in, coming out of, or going into a trial.

What does this teach us about following Christ?

- Christ does not save us to be an accessory in our life.
 1. He demands the first fruits of our love and devotion.
 2. He requires any competing relationship to be reordered.
No matter what!

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Reordered & Reshaped Relationships

Matt 10:37-39 *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. ³⁸And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. ³⁹He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.*

Jesus establishes Himself as the comparative and the supreme object of love for the believer's heart.

When we understand that He has identified Himself with the Father, we realize that this is totally biblical.

Matt 22:36-40 *Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*

Because "love the Lord thy God..." is the first and great commandment, it takes precedent over and shapes the second.

Where is loving your neighbor and yourself? It is second to loving God with all you have.

Jesus is showing us the implications of loving God first on the desires and demands of others and even ourselves.

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Matt 10:40-42 *He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me. ⁴¹He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. ⁴²And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.*

1. The Father and Son are intertwined.

"...he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me"

This previews the statement He will make in Matt 11:25-30

2. The Father and Son are intertwined with God's people.

"He that receiveth you receiveth me..."

Acts 9:4 *And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?*

3. We are called to relieve our brothers and sisters.

- We have just seen how allegiance to Christ will impact our other relationships.

It is likely that we all have or will experience broken relationships because of our bond with Jesus Christ.

- Jesus now enjoins us to receive one another in our suffering, especially persecution and trials.

Mark 10:28-30 *Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.*

How important is a healthy church to endurance in faithfulness to Christ?

Deeper and stronger relationships will allow us to burn brighter as witnesses to Him because as you are with me, He is with me, and as I am with you, He is with you. Behold your foxhole friends!

Romans 12:15 *Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.*

4. As we relieve one another, we enter one another's rewards.

We not only share one another's burdens, but we share one another's blessings.

Matt 25:40 *Hungry, Thirsty, Naked, Sick, Stranger, Imprisoned... And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.*