

**“The Kingdom’s Critical Mission: Live as Disciples” Part 2, Matt 10:24-39, Sermon Notes**  
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**Saving Grace Bible Church**  
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**Morning Worship Service**

"A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master.<sup>25</sup> "It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more *will they malign* the members of his household!<sup>26</sup> "Therefore do not fear them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known.<sup>27</sup> "What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear *whispered* in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops.<sup>28</sup> "Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.<sup>29</sup> "Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And *yet* not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.<sup>30</sup> "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.<sup>31</sup> "So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.<sup>32</sup> "Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven.<sup>33</sup> "But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.<sup>34</sup> "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.<sup>35</sup> "For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW;<sup>36</sup> and A MAN'S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD.<sup>37</sup> "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.<sup>38</sup> "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.<sup>39</sup> "He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it." (Matthew 10:24-39 NAU)

**Sermon Main Idea:**

Encourage us to consider our responsibility to engage in the work of being a disciple of Christ

**Introduction:**

The call to discipleship in Jesus Christ is a call to die to self and follow Christ

- For some the call may result in being used in a glorious way
- Others it may be in obscurity
- For still more it may mean a stable ministry with subtle growth and change over the years

Some are called to ministry and face challenges and difficulties in life

- Immediately they are persecuted by friends and family
- As one gal said: I came to Christ and found the greatest joy and peace I have ever experienced and at the same time lost my family and friends
- In some countries coming to Christ makes you a target

In other areas following Christ is ok as long as you do not get too serious about your faith

- As long as you are not overly religious in your efforts

When we face these difficulties in ministry work we often have the same response to these difficulties

- 1. I must be doing something wrong**
  - a. The ministry is not going the way I planned
  - b. God is not blessing me so I must be sinning
  - c. I am doing something wrong
- 2. God is not blessing me**
  - a. This trial and difficulty cannot be a blessing from God
  - b. It is judgment on me
- 3. I must be outside the will of God**
  - a. It is not going right and therefore I have gotten outside of God's will

But if you are obeying God's Word and doing His work and facing persecution or suffering these ideas are not true

- The text before us teaches that we should expect difficulties in this work
  - What if God wants to use your faithful, godly pursuits to reveal ungodliness in someone else?
  - This is why difficulty comes. Godly living and sound doctrine reveal the godlessness in others and it causes them to get angry, jealous, or defensive.
    - The darkness loves the darkness and hates the light
  - James 1:14-15 describes it as out of control lusts which war within
  - They are controlled by their lusts and war against the truth and those who walk in the truth.
- When you face a difficulty while following God's Word it may very well be God using you as an instrument of spiritual heart surgery in someone else. While you may be suffering pain, God is using it to reveal the ugliness of their fallen condition.
  - It happens all the time, we teach the Word and the Word of God offends people's preferences, wants, traditions
  - This causes conflict. We either embrace the difficulty as from God or avoid it.
  - If we avoid it we have to then compromise on our faithfulness to God. We can't do that so we need to learn to embrace the challenge to walk as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

So Jesus teaches us here to embrace the challenge of being a disciple of Christ

Live as Disciples

1. Challenge to Embrace the Call 24-24
2. Challenge to Not Fear 26-31
3. Challenge to Confess Boldly 32-33
4. Challenge to be Prepared for Personal Rejection 34-36
5. Challenge to Demonstrate the Cross 37-39

### **1. Challenge to Embrace the Call 24-25**

If Jesus suffered, we should not be surprised if we suffer. We are not greater than our Master.

We are not better than our teacher

- If Jesus came preaching God's message and was mistreated, why would we expect anything different ourselves?
- We come teaching God's message
  - People say we cannot do that because we will not reach God's people
  - We can't do that because it is too hard and does not reflect the **God of grace**
  - We can't do that because it will scare people away from the truth
  - We can't do that because it will not reach people

The truth is: who are we to preach or do otherwise? We are following Christ and announcing His message.

I also want to make clear, if you are not preaching the Word of God, you are not reaching anyone

- If you are not proclaiming the message Christ proclaimed and His disciples delivered to us then you are not doing God's work

**We are not accountable for the results. God produces the results. We will be judged on the faithfulness to His Word.**

- When we are faithful to His Word we should not be surprised when we are attacked. Even if those attacks are personal.

## **2. Challenge to Not Fear 26-31**

- We battle against our fears. They may consume us or want to control us but we war against those fears.

**First reason not to be afraid is because deeds of darkness will be exposed: vs 26**

- We don't need to fear because their evil will be exposed the truly righteous will be vindicated and the ungodly will be revealed

**Second reason not to fear is because we proclaim God's message, not our own vs 26b-27**

- We are not coming in our own wisdom but the wisdom of God who cannot lie and will not mislead
- We know we speak the truth so we proceed with boldness

**Thirdly, we should not fear because God who is greater is on our side vs 28**

- God is greater than our enemies, and even if we are harmed in this physical body there is yet a greater harm that we should be concerned about, and that is the harm to our souls.
- God is the only one who could kill body and soul so he is the only one we should truly fear
- We need to value our soul more than our physical body

**Fourthly, we should not fear because God values us and knows us better than we know ourselves.**

- He knows us and cares for us even more than the sparrow who is sold for nearly nothing
- And he knows us better than we know ourselves

- He knows how we operate
- He knows what holds us together
- He knows our secret sins, or natural weaknesses, our inabilities
- Yet He cares for us and ministers to us
- We have no need to fear when we are doing His work

## Body

Remaining 3 points

### 3. Challenge to Confess Boldly 32-33

<sup>32</sup> "Therefore everyone who confesses **Me** before men, **I** will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. <sup>33</sup> "But whoever denies **Me** before men, **I** will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven."

We face the temptation to change God's message in the face of opposition

- Satan also seeks to intimidate us into changing the message as well
- **One of the doctrines that people hate to hear is that Jesus Christ is the only way to get to heaven**
  - How can we be so narrow-minded to say that one can be saved only through Jesus Christ?
  - How can all of these other religions be wrong?
  - How could we be so arrogant as to say that Jesus is the only way to salvation?
  - Here Jesus says you must proclaim me
- **We will be tested to deny Christ**

Most, recently, Muslim radicals have been performing acts of terror in malls and other crowded places stabbing or shooting people who profess Christ or who do not read the Koran.

### Best NT Example of this is in John 9

"They brought to the Pharisees the man who was formerly blind. <sup>14</sup> Now it was a Sabbath on the day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees also were asking him again how he received his sight. And he said to them, "He applied clay to my eyes, and I washed, and I see." <sup>16</sup> Therefore some of the Pharisees were saying, "This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." But others were saying, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And there was a division among them. <sup>17</sup> So they said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?" And he said, "He is a prophet." <sup>18</sup> The Jews then did not believe *it* of him, that he had been blind and had received sight, until they called the parents of the very one who had received his sight, <sup>19</sup> and questioned them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? Then how does he now see?" <sup>20</sup> His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; <sup>21</sup> but how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup> His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone confessed Him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup> For this reason his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." <sup>24</sup> So a second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give glory to God; we know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup> He then answered, "Whether He is a sinner, I do

not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."<sup>26</sup> So they said to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?"<sup>27</sup> He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen; why do you want to hear *it* again? You do not want to become His disciples too, do you?"<sup>28</sup> They reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses."<sup>29</sup> "We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He is from."<sup>30</sup> The man answered and said to them, "Well, here is an amazing thing, that you do not know where He is from, and *yet* He opened my eyes."<sup>31</sup> "We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him."<sup>32</sup> "Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind."<sup>33</sup> "If this man were not from God, He could do nothing."<sup>34</sup> They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?" So they put him out.<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him, He said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"<sup>36</sup> He answered, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?"<sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you."<sup>38</sup> And he said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped Him.<sup>39</sup> And Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind."<sup>40</sup> Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, "We are not blind too, are we?"<sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, 'We see,' your sin remains." (John 9:13-41 NAU)

- Man born blind
- Forced to give his testimony to the religious leaders
- They did not accept his testimony
- They called his parents vs. 18 and intimidated them
- They called him back in vs 24

**He made a bold profession of faith in Christ in the midst of**

- 1. Hostile opposition**
- 2. Doubt and unbelief**
- 3. False accusations**
- 4. Threats**

This is what it means to profess Christ

We should not be surprised if there is hostile opposition against Christ and His work. Even if that hostile opposition comes from those who should know better. This is exactly what the man born blind faced.

Later in the book of Acts, men would be arrested and killed for preaching Christ

**History, starting with Foxe's Book of Martyrs, will account for the various men and women who have professed Christ boldly and lost their lives for it**

We will be challenged to confess Christ in the face of adversity

**The promise to us is this: When we are faithful to confess Christ, Christ will confess us before His Father**

- Think carefully about this:
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- **Who does the Father love the most?**
  - The Son
- The Father will honor those who honor the Son

**On the other hand, rejecting Christ will lead to Christ rejecting us**

- Grace of God is forfeited when we turn from God to fear men instead of God
- **Christ's approval is the only approval that matters**

**4. Challenge to be Prepared for Personal Rejection 34-36**

<sup>34</sup> "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.

<sup>35</sup> "For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; <sup>36</sup> and A MAN'S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD."

**Christ did not come to bring peace on earth**

- **I wonder how many have this as their life verse?**
- Certainly does not seem to fit well in the theological system of many
- For some it is the very center of their theology and it opens them to other problems

We should expect difficulties because God has not come to bring peace

- Christ came to bring a sword
- Christ came to engage in spiritual warfare
- He came to address the deeds of darkness
- Christ came to reveal how sin is ruling in the hearts of man
- Christ came to warn people they are heading to destruction if they do not turn to God
- Christ came to show all are corrupt and the only way to be saved is through Him

**He did not come to bring a physical war**

- We are not to go out and murder people
- We are not called to cleanse an area
- We are not called to physically harm people who do not believe

**But we are called to confront error**

- 2 Cor 10:3-5
- Eph 6

We are called to resist evil and expose it

- We are called to confront the disobedient and to encourage the righteous

**Now the sword the Jesus speaks of is explained in this text:**

Vs 35-36

<sup>35</sup> "For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; <sup>36</sup> and A MAN'S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD."

### **Family members will be set against each other**

- **The only way they come together is for them both to set their desires on Christ**
- Man against his father
- Daughter against mother
- His enemies will be his own household

When is it time to turn from your family? **When they turn their back on Christ! When their interest is above Christ's interest.**

This verse is so challenging to us because we desperately want peace at home:

- Yet some of the greatest challenges come from family
- Personal attacks

### **I am inclined to believe the most emotionally difficult trials come from close friends and family**

- They know you
- You care for them
- When they turn on you and attack you for the truth it hurts the most
- Parents can have authority that they abuse when they set it against God's interest

Family knows you

- They know your weaknesses
- Your past failures
- Your immaturity and weaknesses
- **So when they turn on you and discredit what you believe it hurts more because they can bring up your past easily**

### **It may also mean that growing in Christ pulls you away from your family**

- They pull towards ungodliness and expect you to do the same
- Family members who do not honor God and condone relationships which dishonor God will be angry when you do not approve what they approve
- Family members will entice you to embrace old habits again; drinking, drugs, ect
  - Embrace their liberal mindset on relationships
  - And get angry when you do not embrace the same sins only reminding you of your past
- Some may even have a form of godliness and are opposed to the truth and will not see or acknowledge the Word of God and its authority in their life
  - They are happy to stand over the word of God and tell it what it must mean but they do not come under the Word of God.

**We have to be prepared to face great suffering at the hands of those who are very close to us. It does not get any closer than family.**

## **5. Challenge to Demonstrate the Cross 37-39**

<sup>37</sup> "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**.<sup>38</sup> "And **he who does not take his cross** and follow after Me **is not worthy of Me**.<sup>39</sup> "He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it."

3x Jesus says those who do not forsake these close relationships for Christ are not worthy of Christ

- **This is a serious matter for he has given a three fold witness to his statement**
  - "If family is more important to you than me, Jesus says, you are not worthy of me."
  - **It is family or Jesus**
  - Some of you in this room have been, are being, or will be forced to live out this verse

The warning: vs 38

<sup>38</sup> "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me **is not worthy of Me**."

- IF you do not die to yourself here then you are not fit to be a disciple of Jesus Christ
- You can't compromise with your family and be a friend of Christ
- You need to call your family to follow Christ
- And you gain them when they follow Christ and lose them when they reject Christ

The Promise: vs 39

"He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it

- The promise is that if you lose all that you hold dear on this earth to find Christ you will find your eternal life through Him.

### **If our best life is now we are lost**

- We are called to die to ourselves
- We are called to live for Christ
- Gal 2:20
- Col 3:1-4
- We die to personal gain, personal comfort, personal glory, personal exaltation and live for the glory of God

God may along the way comfort His servant but that is His work not for us to seek

### **Conclusion**

Are you ready to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

- Are you ready to face suffering, personal attacks, insults, and grief for the work of God?
- Will you treasure Christ more than what you see here?
- If so then you are ready to be His disciple!

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