

Matthew 10:34-39

REIMAGINING FAMILY

The Family as a Missional Community

Taylor Sutton

Overview

The family holds an exalted place in the lives of believers, but it is Christ's Kingdom that must be ultimate. In Matthew 10:34-39 Jesus delivers three instructions for families wanting to be missionally minded:

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| 1. A Startling Reality | <i>Jesus' mission is greater than the preservation of families</i> |
| 2. A Drastic Demand | <i>True followers give their ultimate loyalty to Jesus</i> |
| 3. A Promise | <i>If we lose our life for His sake, we will find it</i> |

Quotation

"All of us [Christians] are called to follow Christ by committing ourselves to a life of service and love. Apart from our immediate families, who will see this love? This is an important question, and often the answer is, 'No one outside the family will see this love.' This however, is not a biblical answer."

Jerram Barrs

Understanding & Application

1. Taylor claimed that Evangelical Americans are tempted to make an idol of the family. In what ways do you see this happening? What are the dangers and negative effects of misplacing the family's ultimate value in this way?

Taylor suggested four areas for families as they seek to be biblically missional:

2. *Missional Singleness* How does the church seem to undermine the nobility, dignity, and biblically exalted nature of singleness? What can be done to honor and encourage singles?
3. *Missional Hospitality* How can you open your home to showcase and share the Gospel?
4. *Missional generosity* What do you think of the concept of intentionally living below one's means in order to advance the mission of the Kingdom.
5. *Missional Risk* Are there ways you've elevated safety to a higher value than other significant biblical virtues? What might be some risks you should take for the sake of Jesus Christ?
6. "He who has lost his life for my sake shall find it" How can this be true? What bearing does this have on family life? Explain a way this has been demonstrated in your experience.