

### **Introduction**

- If one, primary relationship is at the heart of being a disciple, then that relationship will have significant \_\_\_\_\_ for all of our other relationships.
- Family relationships are wonderful gifts of God's common grace, but they must be properly \_\_\_\_\_ among the other relationships of life.

**Key Point:** As followers of Jesus, we must prioritize our calling to be His \_\_\_\_\_ above our desire for \_\_\_\_\_ within our family relationships.

## **Matthew 10:16-39 — *The Cost of Following Jesus***

### **The Sending Out of The Twelve**

- The wider context of this passage is Jesus' commissioning of the Twelve Apostles for the purpose of proclaiming the coming of the kingdom (with Jesus as Messiah/King) as well as demonstrating its power by casting out demons and healing diseases.
- The wider body of instruction places particular emphasis on the reality of persecution and has application for all of Jesus' followers who are commissioned by Him for ministry (Matt. 28:18-20).

#### **Matthew 10:16-25**

1. Jesus warns the disciples that carrying out His commission will result in *persecution*.
2. Followers of Jesus must endure *faithfully* as His witnesses even as they are hated for the sake of His name.
3. Their experience of persecution is directly linked to their *relationship* to Christ.

**Key Point:** Followers of Jesus must expect \_\_\_\_\_ in both word and deed as they seek to live as His witnesses.

#### **Matthew 10:26-33**

1. As Jesus' witnesses, they must not *fear* those who would persecute them, but must instead *fear* God.
2. The willingness to *deny* Jesus before others is an ominous sign.

**Key Point:** The confidence to live as Jesus' witnesses is not derived from the \_\_\_\_\_ of our lives but instead from our worship of the Lord.

#### **Matthew 10:34-39**

<sup>34</sup> “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup> For I have come 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 PERSON'S ENEMIES WILL BE THOSE OF HIS OWN HOUSEHOLD. <sup>37</sup> Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. <sup>38</sup> And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

1. Jesus *clarifies* for His followers the intended effect of His mission.

⇒ Jesus fundamentally alters the relationship of His \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ around them.

## 2. Jesus grounds this statement with a partial quotation from the prophet Micah.

Micah 7:5-6—<sup>5</sup> Put no trust in a neighbor; have no confidence in a friend; guard the doors of your mouth from her who lies in your arms;<sup>6</sup> for the son treats the father with contempt, the daughter rises up against her mother, the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; a man's enemies are the men of his own house.

### The Message of the Book of Micah:

- (1) God will judge the \_\_\_\_\_ (1:2-7)
- (2) There is hope because the Lord will establish true \_\_\_\_\_ in the land (4:1-2) and raise up \_\_\_\_\_ who will shepherd the people of God.
- (3) Until then, the righteous \_\_\_\_\_ must endure trials and persecution (7:1-10)

⇒ By employing this partial quotation, Jesus affirms that the Word of the Lord always creates \_\_\_\_\_ between those who choose to believe and follow it and those who do not.

⇒ He also intends for His followers to draw a \_\_\_\_\_ between themselves and the persecuted prophet.

Micah 7:7—But as for me, I will look to the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me.

## 3. The key implication of Jesus' teaching is that His followers must live as His witnesses even to the detriment of their deepest of family relationships.

⇒ There is clear progression that illustrates the difficulty of being a faithful witness when \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are present within one's family.

- (1) The relationship with one's \_\_\_\_\_:
- (2) The relationship with one's \_\_\_\_\_:

"worthy"—ἀξιός (*axios*)—Pertaining to being correspondingly fitting or appropriate; to be fit or deserving of someone/-thing.

⇒ Recall that Jesus Himself experienced these exact kinds of difficulties during His earthly life.

Mark 3:20-21—<sup>20</sup> Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. <sup>21</sup> And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind."

## 4. Jesus illustrates the difficulty of this using the imagery of death.

⇒ To take up one's \_\_\_\_\_ was to understand the full ramifications of what lay ahead.

⇒ There is a tremendous \_\_\_\_\_ that results from either seeking to preserve your "life" or being willing to lay it down.

**Key Point:** Followers of Jesus must be willing for the experiences of their lives to \_\_\_\_\_ those of His own.

## Principles for Courageous Discipleship

- Jesus' disciples must bear witness to Him both through \_\_\_\_\_ the Gospel and \_\_\_\_\_ its implications.

- In order to do this, love for \_\_\_\_\_ must surpass our love for even our closest family members.

- As disciples of Jesus, we have become members of a \_\_\_\_\_ family.

Mark 3:31-35—<sup>31</sup> And his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. <sup>32</sup> And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you." <sup>33</sup> And he answered them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" <sup>34</sup> And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! <sup>35</sup> For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother."

1 Pet. 1:14-17—<sup>14</sup> "As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, <sup>15</sup> but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, <sup>16</sup> since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." <sup>17</sup> And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile..."