

121. Jesus Says “Follow Me!” (Matthew 10:34-42)

Prayer: Heavenly Father, You are our wonderful God and Lord. In Your mercy, You saved us from sin. We are weak, but You chose us to belong to You and witness about You. Help us to live boldly, no matter what people say against us. Help us give up our desires and only follow You. Help us live so people see Jesus Christ living in us. We pray in the name of Jesus our Savior. Amen.

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Matthew 10:34. Jesus said, “Don’t think that I came to bring peace on earth. I didn’t come to bring peace. I came to bring a sword.”

- Does this mean Jesus doesn’t give peace to anyone? Finish this sentence: Jesus doesn’t give peace to...
- In John 14:27, Jesus said, “I leave peace with you. I give you My peace. I don’t give peace the same as the world gives peace. Don’t let your hearts feel troubled or afraid.” Jesus does give peace. To whom?

Matthew 10:35-36. “I came to put a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. A man’s enemies will be his own family.”

- Does Jesus want families to split apart?
- Why might a family have troubles if one person believes in Jesus, but the rest of the family doesn’t believe in Jesus?

Matthew 10:37. “Suppose a person loves his father or mother more than he loves Me. That person is not worthy to follow Me. If a person loves his son or daughter more than Me, that person is not worthy to follow Me.”

- Some people might follow Jesus and see their family hating them because they follow Jesus. They will be tempted to stop following Jesus and keep peace in their family. What does Jesus say to that person?
- How important should Jesus be in our hearts, minds, and lives?

Matthew 10:38-39. “If a person doesn’t pick up his cross and follow Me, that person is not worthy to follow Me. If a person found his life, he will lose it. If a person loses his life for Me, he will find his life.”

- In Jesus’ time, if you picked up a cross, what did that mean about where you were going? Then what does that mean when Jesus tells us to pick up our cross and follow Him?
- If we lose our life, how can we find our life? (Hint – Jesus is talking about two different lives, an old one and a new one.)
- A few verses ago, Jesus said He came to bring a sword, no peace. Is there peace in these verses about carrying your cross? How?

Matthew 10:40-42. “When a person welcomes you, that person truly welcomes Me. When a person welcomes Me, he truly welcomes the One who sent Me. If a person welcomes a prophet as a prophet, that person will get a prophet’s reward. If a person welcomes a righteous man as a righteous man, that person will get the reward for a righteous man. Suppose someone gives a child a cup of cold water because that child follows Me. That person will not lose his reward.”

- Now Jesus has taught the apostles what to do, warned them about persecution, and encouraged the disciples to follow only Him. Now Jesus reminds them how important their work is. When a person meets an apostle, who are they really meeting?