

**Prayer:**

**Slide # 1**

**Theme:** *Christ the King*

**Outline:**

Chps. 1-2 The Advent of the King. (Proving His LEGAL right to the throne by His genealogy.)

Chp. 3 The Forerunner of the King and the King’s baptism.

Chp. 4 The Test of the King. (Proving His MORAL right to the throne by not yielding to temptation; and exhibiting His kingdom resume.)

Chps. 5-7 The Pronouncements of the King. (Proving His JUDICIAL right to the throne as seen in the wisdom of His kingdom teaching.)

**Chps. 8-10 *The Power of the King. (Proving His PROPHETICAL right to the throne by fulfilling prophecy.)***

Chps. 11-12 The Rejection of the King.

Chp. 13 The Parables of the King.

Chps. 14-16 The Revelations of the King.

Chps. 17-20 The Instructions of the King.

Chps. 21-23 Formal Rejection of the King.

Chps. 24-25 The Predictions of the King.

Chps. 26-27 The Passion of the King.

Chp. 28 The Resurrection of the King.

John the Baptist came as the forerunner of the Messianic King preparing the way for Him by calling the people to repentance. The way into the kingdom is through repentance (cf. Mt. 3:2). Jesus began His public ministry with the very same message saying, “**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**” (Mt. 4:17).

Jesus was the promised divine/human Messiah Who came as King presenting the kingdom to Israel on the condition of repentance. In the process He had 12 disciples that He authorized to be apostles. As apostles they were Christ’s unique authoritative representatives who also were empowered to go and do “kingdom miracles”. Thus, the ministry of Christ and His offer of the kingdom with evidence of kingdom miracles was expanded and extended through the apostles.

But here is the thing. Repentance demands that Christ be accepted on His terms – which is WHO He is as Lord and Savior. Matthew 8-9 over and over emphasizes the LORDSHIP authority of Christ with the issue being that of FAITH in Him.

As we move into chapter 10 and see Christ giving apostolic authority to the chosen 12 there are two side by side emphases that go together. Christ emphasizes the POWER they would have over disease and demons; but He also emphasized that their ministry would also involve PERSECUTION. And then He shows that this experience of PERSECUTION is to be an expected reality by all those who are true followers of His. In fact, it becomes a test of who is a genuine follower!

Christ specifically told them in Matt. 10:16 that He was sending them out as “**sheep in the midst of wolves**”. Yet, He told them three times in this same context not to fear (10:26, 28, 31). Persecution is a testing reality. It shows who is real and who is not. It is our faith that sees us through!

And Christ drew the lines very sharply. In the context of persecution there will be those who confess Him before men whom He in turn will confess before the Father and there will be those who deny (disown) Him before men whom He in turn will disown before the Father in heaven (10:32-33).

Christ then drew the lines so plainly that it is very hard to miss the nature of the commitment He was calling for. Clearly it is a “discipleship” commitment as alluded to in verse 25 where Jesus said, “**A disciple is not above his teacher**”. True believers are true followers – which is to say true disciples.

### **Slide # 2**

#### **John 10:27–28 (NKJV)**

**27** My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and **they follow Me**.

**28** And I give them **eternal life**, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

It is those who FOLLOW Christ who have the gift of eternal life. We are not saved by following but the fruit of true faith is to follow – which is the essence of being a true disciple.

A disciple is a learning/follower. And one enters into a discipleship relationship with Christ at the point of saving faith. There are those who wrongfully try to separate being a believer and being a disciple. But Matthew does not do that. Jesus does not do that.

**Slide 3****Matthew 28:19–20 (NKJV)**

**19** Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20 teaching** them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

Jesus said that the first thing we are to do is make a disciple (a believing/learning/follower) and then baptize them. The reason this is significant is because in the NT the pattern invariably was to immediately baptize believers.

This shows that what Christ called a disciple is considered to be a believer. Christ did not say baptize believers and then hopefully later they will become disciples. No, from the very beginning of true faith Christ considered them to be disciples (followers) and therefore said to baptize disciples. At that point they were already followers who believe in the Triune God whose name they openly identify with in baptism.

But note disciples need to grow. In faith they become a learning/follower but that is just the beginning of a life-long process. They need to continue to learn and grow; hence after they are baptized Christ said to continue ***“teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.”*** There is a growth process and in that process disciples can get off track or fail to grow, etc.

However, the commitment of a true disciple is made very clear by Jesus as seen in the verses that follow. All the way through Jesus is emphasizing what true discipleship looks like and what He shows is that it involves a supreme commitment to Him above all else. In other words, true disciples recognize Jesus as Lord! That is the issue through and through in this context!

**Matthew 10:34–42 (NKJV)**

**34 “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.**

Truth unites but it also divides – depending on what side of Jesus we fall on. Jesus is telling us that some will accept Him on His terms (true disciples/believers) and some will not (unbelievers). And consequently there will be tension between them.

When Christ said, “***Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth.***” That needs to be qualified. In the grand scheme of things He did come to ultimately bring peace. Isa. 9:6 calls Him the, “***Prince of Peace***”. For the individual believer being “***justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ***” (Rom. 5:1). As fellow believers Christ “***Himself is our peace***” who has broken down the divisions between us (cf. Eph. 2:14-17). So certainly, we have personal peace and relational peace with God’s people through the coming of Christ.

In context Christ is making a contrast between true disciples/believers and those who will not follow Him. This is where the point of contention – the sword comes in. The sword represents division, conflict, or separation. The cross reference of Luke 12:51 clearly shows what Christ is metaphorically depicting is the idea of DIVISION.

#### **Slide # 4**

##### **Luke 12:51 (NKJV)**

**51** Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather **division**.

Christ’s FIRST coming resulted in division. There has been division over Him ever since He came. Certainly, as God’s people we are to be “peacemakers” (cf. Mt. 5:9). And Paul instructed us...

##### **Romans 12:18 (NKJV)**

**18** If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

So, it is not that we as believers are looking for conflict. We are NOT! We try to get along with everyone. The problem as addressed by Christ here is that the unbelieving world that is rejecting Him is going to have a problem with us. We are not going to agree on Christ. And that right there is the issue. True disciples will insist on being loyal to Christ above all – while those rejecting will have a problem with that and force the issue.

Note in the end there will be peace on the earth and Christ will ultimately bring it about – but that will not happen until His SECOND coming (cf. Lk. 2:14).

#### **Slide # 5**

##### **Isaiah 2:4 (NKJV)**

**4** He shall **judge** between the nations, And **rebuke** many people;  
They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into  
pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither  
shall they learn war anymore.

In the pre-second coming era there is this long shaking out of history in which people constantly face the decision on where they will stand with Christ. Will they become a disciple, or will they stand in opposition to Christ and His people? This will be the ongoing issue until the Second Coming. But then in the Second Coming Christ will come in power and glory to forever put down all resistance and to rule with a rod of iron. Then there will be lasting peace on earth – but not before.

Right after the fall of mankind in Genesis 3 we see the issue of division introduced. There would be enmity between the seed of the woman and the seed of the devil (cf. Gen. 3:15). As we move into Genesis 4-5 we see an ungodly seed line and a godly seed line and that develops throughout history.

Godly Abel was killed by ungodly Cain and that pattern continues down through history. There is light and darkness. There are children of God and children of the devil. There are followers of Christ and followers of Antichrist. And this relates to every sector of society.

And so Christ says...

**35 For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’;  
36 and ‘a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.’**

These are some of the hardest verses in the Bible – practically speaking. They are words of sober truth that have been experienced by God’s people down throughout the entire church age to one degree or another. I can tell you even in our church there are many family tensions over the issue of Christ. Sadly, many that cause tensions are even professing Christians but their hostility towards true Christians suggests they are not real.

Christ here gets right in the middle of the closest relationships in life – family relationships – and He demands to be number one. This is the stuff of true discipleship.

Children and parents will be at odds over Christ. In-laws will be at odds over Christ. A person's enemies will be those of their own family – all because Christ gets in the middle of these relationships. And all because Christ demands supreme allegiance. Christ demands loyalty above all other relationships including the closest of family relationships.

Even Christ's own family opposed Him during His earthly ministry before they came to clearly realize who He was (cf. Mt. 13:53-58); Mk. 3:21; Jn. 7:3-5). And in that context Jesus proverbially said, "**A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house.**" (Mt. 13:57).

Matt. 10:35-36 is a take off from Micah 7:6.

### **Slide # 6**

#### **Micah 7:6 (NKJV)**

**6** For son dishonors father, Daughter rises against her mother, Daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; A man's enemies are the men of his own household.

The context of Micah addresses a time when apostasy was so strong that it effected the closest of family relationships. Christ in effect is saying that rebel hostility against God will be the cause of this division. Only revival in Israel will ultimately change this situation.

### **Slide # 7**

#### **Malachi 4:5–6 (NKJV)**

**5** Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.

**6** And he will **turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers,** Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

When true repentance comes to Israel families will then align in harmony under the truth of God. But until then families will commonly be divided over Christ. Such is the case today – just as Christ said! Praise the Lord there are exceptions to this rule where all in the family are true disciples, but what Christ said here in Matt. 10:34-36 is very common.

One of the costs of discipleship is to experience tension, strife, and alienation from one's own family. – **William MacDonald**

A child is raised in a Christian home and professes Christ but then one day comes home and proudly announces they are gay or bi-sexual, or transgender or who knows what. Suddenly there is a family crisis! What is the place of Christ going to be in this situation? Well, true disciples will follow Christ – and He demands allegiance over family. Jesus demands that He be LORD over family. He goes on to say...

**37 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.**

Christ is not saying we should not love our parents or our children. Of course, we should. The balance of Scripture is very clear on this. 1 Tim. 5:8 says that if anyone does not care for his own family, he is at that point acting worse than an unbeliever.

The issue here is in that little word "**more**". Family is not to be above Jesus. Jesus demands on being recognized as LORD! This is the stuff of true discipleship. Jesus says if anyone loves family more than Him, they are not worthy of Him. And as seen in verse 39 this is a test of who is genuine. One must choose loyalty to Jesus above loyalty to family. The issue is this: What is going to be the number one loyalty? Who will have our supreme allegiance? Well, for true disciples the answer is Jesus!

John Bunyan was told he must quit preaching or go to prison which would result in his family being destitute. His oldest daughter Mary was especially close to him, and she was born blind. From his cell he wrote...

The parting with my Wife and poor Children hath oft been to me in this place as the pulling the flesh from my bones; ...I should have often brought to my mind the many hardships, miseries, and wants that my poor family was like to meet with, should I be taken from them, especially my poor blind Child, who lay nearer my heart than all I had besides. Oh, the thought of the hardship I thought my blind one might go under would break my heart to pieces... But yet, recalling myself, thought I, I must venture all with God, though it [means I have] to leave you. Oh, I saw in this condition, I was a man who was pulling down his house upon the head of his wife and children, yet thought I, I must do it. I must do it. – **John Bunyan (Grace Abounding, Section 327.)**

Who could possibly make such a claim on people as to insist on being the number one allegiance of their life? Such a person must either be the divine/human Messiah or he would be a maniac. This is a God-like claim because only God has the right to demand absolute supreme allegiance above all others. Yet, this is exactly what Jesus demands!

One commentator translates “**not worthy of Me**” as “does not deserve to be Mine” (Phillips). To chose family over Christ as an unbroken pattern shows one is not converted - that one is not a true disciple (cf. Lk. 14:25-27).

Christ was not presenting to His disciples some kind of a higher level of commitment. He was educating them on what it means to be “disciples indeed” (Jn. 8:31). Lots of people claim to believe – claim to be disciples but when the testing time comes they are shown to be bogus. That is a key point in Christ’s parable of the Sower and the soils.

### **Slide # 8**

#### **Mark 4:17 (NKJV)**

**17** and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when **tribulation or persecution** arises for the word’s sake, immediately they stumble.

#### **Luke 8:15 (NKJV)**

**15** But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and **good heart**, **keep it** and bear fruit with **patience** [endurance].

### **Slide # 9**

#### **John 8:31–37 (NKJV)**

**31** Then Jesus said to those Jews who **believed** [not with saving faith] Him, “If you **abide in My word**, you are My **disciples indeed**.

...

**36** Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

**37** “I know that you are Abraham’s descendants, **but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you.**

You see there is such a thing as a bogus kind of faith that is not saving faith. A true faith sees Christ as Lord over all, and it continues/endures! This idea of Christ needing to be number one (or to use the Bible word “Lord”) over all is not unique to this passage.

There are two KEY gospel passages that make the salient point that in salvation Christ is recognized above anyone else and above everything else. In other words true BELIEF recognizes Christ as Lord over all.

### **Slide # 10**

**Matt. 10:34-39** – Lord over the closest of human **RELATIONSHIPS**.

**Mark 10:17-22**- Lord over all the **STUFF** of life.

### **Slide # 11**

**Mark 10:17–22 (NKJV)**

**17** Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, “Good Teacher, what shall **I do** that I may inherit **eternal life**?”

**18** So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call **Me good**? No one is good but One, that is, God.

**19** You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not bear false witness,’ ‘Do not defraud,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother.’ ”

**20** And he answered and said to Him, “Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth.”

**21** Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “**One thing you lack**: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, **take up the cross, and follow Me.**”

**22** But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Jesus makes the issue FOLLOWING HIMSELF and the issue is LORDSHIP. True discipleship is a Lordship issue. Will Jesus be recognized as Lord over all or not? Will we above all FOLLOW JESUS? That is the issue regarding the closest of human relationships in Matthew 10 and that is the issue regarding the possessions of life in Mark 10. These two chapters serve to show that having eternal life involves recognizing Jesus as Lord above all else. Only this type of a Lordship commitment is a saving faith.

But let me add this qualifier. Jesus here uses the word “***phileo***” for love instead of the word “agapao” which is characteristically the more intensive word for love. Admittedly at points there is overlap, but we might have

expected Christ to use the more intensive agapao here since that word emphasizes a love driven by the will emphasizing sacrificial commitment. Phileo literally means “friendship love” and emphasizes the affections of the heart. All believers will supremely phileo Jesus but they may fail Him in the realm of agape love. This was the deal with Peter. His affections were all in for Jesus but he failed at agape.

When Jesus addressed fallen Peter after the Resurrection. Twice He asked Peter if he loved (*agapao*) Him. Peter, humbled and remembering his miserable failure, answered with the weaker word. Saying, “You know that I love (*phileo*) You.” The third time Jesus used the less intense word saying, “Do you even *phileo* Me?” The humbled Peter said, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love [*phileo*] You.” And indeed Jesus did know that Peter loved Him – not perfectly, not as consistently and intensely as he should have. But Jesus knew he loved Him as seen in His response of “Feed My sheep.” (cf. Jn. 21:15-17).

Jesus is saying that all believers down deep will have the strongest of affection for Him. It might not be as agape consistent as it should be but down deep all true believers in their innermost soul do (*phileo*) love Jesus above all.

It is easy to say “I believe in Jesus” but do you truly love Him. There are many evidences of true salvation but right at the top is a SINCERE LOVE for Jesus.

### **Slide # 12**

#### **1 Corinthians 16:22 (NKJV)**

**22** If anyone does not love [*phileo*] the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come!

#### **Ephesians 6:24 (NKJV)**

**24** Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

#### **1 Peter 1:8 (NKJV)**

**8** whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

#### **1 John 4:19 (NKJV)**

**19** We love Him because He first loved us.

The affections of the heart tell on a person. It's not that true believers never fail. They do, but when they do they characteristically hate it (cf. Rom. 7:18-22). You can truly love Jesus and yet fail Him miserably. Peter did that. After (in human weakness) he denied the Lord three times immediately he was convicted to the core and went out and wept bitterly (cf. Mt. 26:75). Why? Because in truth he did really love Jesus!

True believers characteristically love Jesus and hate sin. That is why Paul in 1 Cor. 8:3 says, "***If anyone loves God, this one is known by Him.***" The fruit of true faith is LOVE, first to God and then towards fellow believers (cf. 1 Jn. 3:14).

There is a flow of thought here related to loving Jesus and following Him in the way of the cross. To make the matter clear Jesus uses the same type of "cross" language here in Matthew 10 that He used in reference to the rich young ruler in Mark 10 showing there is a parallel thought in view. The same type of "love commitment" demanded by Christ here in Matt. 10 is seen in the commitment He demanded of the rich young ruler in Mark 10.

### **38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.**

Here Christ introduces the language of the cross. All those listening would have understood the meaning of a cross as representing death. Rome commonly put people to death on a cross in full view for all to see. It was a gruesome, violent, degrading death. There is a death experience in choosing to follow Christ. Death to self and following Christ go together. You can't have one without the other.

And Christ says those who refuse to take up their cross and follow Him are not worthy of Him. They are not fit to be classified as belonging to Him. They have nothing to do with Christ.

As seen in the next verse Christ was saying that true followers are willing to die for Him if necessary. They choose to follow Christ above all else – including life itself. That is the ultimate commitment. This is what Christ demands from His followers.

The point is that disciples must be prepared to die (literally and figuratively) as martyrs for Christ. – **HCSB**

Allegiance even to death is demanded of Christ's followers.

– **Charles Ryrle**

**Slide # 13**

Taking up a cross here stands for commitment to the extent of being willing to die for something. – **Nelson Study Bible**

The cross was an instrument of death and here symbolizes the necessity of total commitment – even unto death – on the part of Jesus' disciples. – **NIV Study Bible**

People say, but what about Peter he denied Jesus 3 times. Yes, he did but look a little closer. Peter adamantly said he was willing to die for Jesus (cf. Jn. 13:37). Peter's heart was right and he meant it. When they came out to arrest Jesus it was Peter who took the sword and took of the ear of the servant of the high priest (cf. Mt. 26:51). He was sincere. Jesus said to him, "**The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.**" (Mt. 26:41).

The point is Peter did have a weakness lapse, but he was sincerely sold out to Christ and then empowered by the Spirit history records he did in fact die for Jesus in the end. He did as a pattern take up his cross and follow Jesus. This following of Christ does not mean we won't ever mess up, it means that down deep we really do love Jesus above all and that we wrestle with human weakness – which we all do.

**Slide # 14**

**Acts 1:8 (NKJV)**

**8** But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be **witnesses** [Gk "martus"] to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

"Witness" is from the Greek root word *martus*. *Martus* is the origin of the English word *martyr*. It denotes someone who embodies the example of Jesus by being willing to die for what they believe about Him. This is our calling.

The nature of a saving faith commitment is the same in all dispensations. In Hebrews 11 (the hall of faith chapter) we see example after example of people by faith standing for God in the midst of all manner of hostility and difficult circumstances.

**Slide # 15**

**Hebrews 11:24–26 (NKJV)**

**24 By faith** Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,  
**25 choosing rather to suffer** affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,  
**26** esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

This is the stuff of saving faith as modeled by Moses. The nature of a true saving faith is seen in Tribulation Period on the part of those who will be willing to die for Christ rather than worship the Antichrist. The nature of saving faith is not different today than it will be then. In all dispensations the nature of saving faith remains the same.

**Slide # 16****Revelation 12:11 (NKJV)**

**11** And they **overcame** him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they **did not love their lives to the death.**

And just to show you that the same principle applies to the Church Age Christ said this to the Church at Smyrna...

**Slide # 17****Revelation 2:10 (NKJV)**

**10** Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. **Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.**

This is a statement of assurance, not a statement of the ground on which one has eternal life. Eternal life is based on the finished work of Christ alone and saving faith in Him. However, if the faith is real, it will show in one's life; and being faithful until death is the ultimate proof of genuine saving faith.

Paul spoke of living the "crucified life" in which he no longer lived for himself.

**Slide # 18**

**Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)**

**20** I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Faith – the crucified life – and following Christ is all a package! We are saved by faith alone – but it must be the right kind of faith – a faith that follows Christ supremely – not perfectly – but sincerely.

And to further qualify this Christ says...

**39 He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.**

All the way through this entire context Christ is emphasizing that true disciples will persevere in the context of persecution, and they do so because they have recognized Jesus for Who He is as Lord.

This paradoxical principle (lose life – find life) is stated by Christ more than another other single statement made by Christ showing its fundamental importance (cf. Mt. 16:25; Mk. 8:35; Lk. 9:24; 17:33; Jn. 12:25). Christ is making a point here that is of utmost importance and yet strangely so many Bible commentators either skip over it or try to dance around it. Yet, the hard words of Jesus are often some of the most important!

The word “life” here is the Greek word “psyche” which literally means “soul”. It refers to the essence of one’s being. Note it very carefully that Christ is not here talking about rewards but the very soul of a person.

The sense is that the person who puts his own life as a higher priority than Christ will lose his soul – showing this person never truly had a genuine saving faith. But the person who loses his life for the sake of Christ will share in eternal life.

**Slide # 19**

Verse 39 could be paraphrased, “He whose life pleases only himself will miss eternal life, and he whose life is lived for Me [Christ] even to the point of death will find that eternal life awaits him.”

– ***The Moody Bible Commentary***

The meaning of verse 39 is that he who avoids death in the midst of persecution by denying Christ will lose his soul; but he whose

devotion to Christ may result in physically dying for Him will enjoy eternal life in His presence. – **Howard Vos**

If this is true (and it is) it totally and absolutely destroys the whole idea of “Easy Believism” that says you can believe in Christ in a saving way and yet it will not necessarily affect your life. Either Christ is wrong or Easy Believism is wrong. I am going with Christ.

There is absolute consistency in what Christ is saying all through this entire context emphasizing that true followers endure.

## **Slide # 20**

### **Matthew 10 flow of thought...**

- v. 22 ...he who endures to the end will be saved.
- v. 28 ... fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.
- v. 33 ...whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny...
- v. 37... loves [family]...more than Me is not worthy of Me.
- v. 38...not take his cross and follow...not worthy of Me.
- v. 39...finds his life will lose it...loses his life for My sake will find it.

More narrowly note that loving Christ above all ties to death to self and following Christ and in turn this losing of one’s “life” results in finding it. In the end there are those who live for Jesus (true disciples) and there are those who live for self and lose everything for all eternity. Within the category of living for Jesus there are degrees of faithfulness, but all true believers ultimately value Jesus above all else. As Paul says in Col. 3:11, “Christ is all and in all.”

Jesus started out in verse 34 emphasizing that there will be division over Him and that even family will become enemies over Him. But now in verses 40-42 He comes full circle showing that what is indicative of true disciples is that they receive, support, and endorse fellow followers and that every effort to that end will be rewarded (cf. Mt. 10:11-15).

**40 “He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.**

Not all will reject. God always has a remnant and the mark of those receptive Christ's people are showing that they are receptive of Him and in turn the Father. Christ's people are truly His ambassadors (2 Cor. 5:20).

In context the sense seems to be that those who are willing to risk persecution to identify with and receive God's people are showing by their solidarity that they too are receptive of Christ and God the Father.

We see here a very close association between the one sent and the sender he represents. And the reception of the one is the reception of the other.

This is very similar to the sense in Matt. 25 where Christ will separate the sheep from the goats based on their treatment of His brethren – meaning His people (cf. Mt. 25:31-46). How they treat Christ's brethren (His people) is how they treat Him which is indicative of their destiny.

**41 He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.**

Here Christ enlarges on the principle laid down in verse 40. A prophet gave forth a message from God.

Those receiving the prophet would share in his reward because they too had a part in his ministry. Those receiving a righteous person because of how he lives would also share in his reward. Whether receiving those who speak for God or those who endeavor to live for God (and there is overlap here) – whatever the role of God's servant those receiving them will share in their reward. A.T Pierson makes this sobering application:

Think of that if you are inclined to criticize a speaker! If you help him speak for God, and encourage him you will get part of his reward; but if you make it difficult for him to discharge his office, you will lose your reward. – **A.T. Pierson**

**42 And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward."**

"One of these little ones" probably speaks to those in the most humble of positions or those considered to be the most insignificant of Christ's

disciples. Those so ministering to them will be rewarded for it no matter how small the kindness shown.

All the disciples of Christ are precious to Him. None are insignificant and any ministry done for them will not go unrewarded.

It is true that [true disciples will] be opposed, rejected, arrested, tried, imprisoned, and perhaps even killed. But let them never forget that that they were representatives of the King and that their glorious privilege was to speak and act for Him. – **William MacDonald**

And to underscore this Christ emphasizes that any thing done to encourage and support their ministry will be rewarded.

Disciples, true believers, are sold out for Jesus! Jesus is the most important love of their life. They love Jesus above all else. There will be those who hate them for it but there is also a family of true believers that will support them – and any such support will ultimately be rewarded.

### ***The Truth by Al Martin...***

**The cross does not give us a minor shift or two with regard to a few of our ethical and moral and religious values. The cross radically disrupts the very center and citadel of your life from self, to Christ.** And if the cross has not done that you are not a Christian!

My friend FACE IT! Young rouge you not a Christian until the cross has radically disrupted the very center and citadel of your life and brought you from a life of commitment to serve self; whether it's religious self, moral self, proud self, covetous self, lustful self, prideful self, unforgiving self, lazy self. IT DOESN'T MATTER!

What are the focal points of the reign of your self? **If you've gone to the cross in union with Christ it's been SHATTERED!!!**

I want you in that day when you stand with me before the Judge of the world to have Him say, "Come you blessed," "Come you blessed". I don't want to look at you standing there saying "Lord, Lord, Lord, Lord! I named you in earth, I named you before the elders, I named you before the church!

I named you in prayer meeting, I named you in witness. And Lord, now Lord, Lord did I not this and did I not that . I don't want to hear

Him say: "Depart from Me I never knew you, you worker of iniquity. You never were made a doer of the will of God."  
 You learned enough, and you learned what to say properly enough to be accepted for what you professed yourself to be on earth, but now the Day of Judgment has come, and the TRUTH is now to be known.

- *Al Martin*

And the only question that remains is what will the TRUTH reveal?

**Romans 5:1 (NKJV)**

**1** Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

**Romans 6:23 (NKJV)**

**23** For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Is Jesus your PERSONAL LORD and SAVIOR? This is the ultimate issue!

**Acts 16:31 (NKJV)**

**31** So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."