

LORD OVER FAMILY

Jesus said there would be division over Him! Truth unites but it also divides! And this would be felt most acutely on the level of the family!

Jesus said...

Matthew 10:35–36 (NKJV)

**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 who cause tensions are even professing Christians, but their hostility towards true Christians suggests they are not real Christians.

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).

Matthew 10:35-36 is a takeoff from Micah 7:6.

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 affected 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.

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 Matthew 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 bisexual, 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. It is the test of AUTHENTICITY!

For the true believer, Jesus is LORD over family!