

MISSION MINDSET – Pt. 2 Matthew 10:34-39

*REVIEW

- Jesus had previously spoken of expected adversity and opposition because of association with Jesus.
- They will be arrested, handed over to the governing leaders, brought before courts, beaten, betrayed by close relationships, hated, and more.
- **Jesus now puts it all in context. Jesus was preparing His disciples for the reality of opposition, adversity, and even persecution in their mission on His behalf.**

*MESSAGE THEME: The central theme is: Following Jesus is a costly endeavor!

*MESSAGE POINTS

1. Jesus – a source of conflict.
2. Jesus' order of allegiance.
3. Jesus' demand – take up your cross.

*INTRODUCTION

- In Matthew 10:34–39, Jesus is engaging in a process of “setting expectations” for kingdom life.
- He is laying out a kingdom mindset!

*JESUS – A SOURCE OF CONFLICT vs. 34

Matthew 10:34 (NKJV) *Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.*

*No Peace

- Jesus preemptively dismantles the misconception that His arrival brings a superficial truce.
 - The blessed peacemaker does not compromise truth, disregard God.
- The word “peace”—*eirene*—often implies a condition of harmony; however, the basis for the harmony is critical!
 - It is full devotion to Jesus Christ.
 - Absent of that, there is no peace.
 - Jesus did not come to earth to facilitate everyone getting along, but to set forth God's Kingdom based on His truth.
- Jesus is stating that His mission creates a division.

*A Sword

- The “sword” represents the divisive nature of the truth.
- Paul would say the Sword of the Spirit is Word of God.
 - When the light of the Gospel enters a dark room, it does not blend with the darkness; it exposes it, it causes a reaction.
- His presence creates a moral crisis for every person who encounters Him: they must either submit or reject.

- Jesus is teaching the apostles that the Kingdom of God is inherently antithetical to the kingdom of this world.
 - When He says, “I did not come to bring peace but a sword,” He is clarifying that the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of the world system cannot coexist in harmony.
 - He is teaching them that the Gospel does not function as a “filler” or a polite amendment.
 - Instead, it functions as a **blade**. It cuts through compromise, deception, and lies, it exposes sin, and it creates an unavoidable divide.

*The Lesson

- Jesus teaches that when the Gospel is introduced, it creates a new category of belonging.
- If one member of a household accepts Christ and lives under His authority while others refuse, the Gospel will necessarily create a rift.
- The lesson for the apostles—and for us—is that **unity is not the highest goal**.
- When the price of “peace” (social cohesion, relational harmony) is the compromise of Truth, then the conflict is not only inevitable, but also holy.

*JESUS' ORDER OF ALLEGIANCE

vss. 35-37

Matthew 10:35–37 (NKJV) *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.’ 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.*

*Jesus Reordering of Loyalties

- Jesus is teaching the apostles that the Kingdom of God requires a radical reordering of all human loyalties.

- By warning them that the Gospel would effectively “set a man against his father,” if either establishes Jesus as the ultimate allegiance is communicating that God’s truth and kingdom will be “polarizing.”
 - If your family, career, or societal standing demands you turn your back on Christ, His commands, obedience to Him, you must choose Christ.
- The term “worthy” of Me (**axios**) means to have a corresponding weight.
- It provides the imagery of a balance scale.
 - To place any human relationship on the same level as Jesus is to devalue the weight of His glory.

* Jesus and His Family

- * Jesus’ brothers were skeptical and mocking

John 7:1–5 (NLT) *After this, Jesus traveled around Galilee. He wanted to stay out of Judea, where the Jewish leaders were plotting his death. 2 But soon it was time for the Jewish Festival of Shelters, 3 and Jesus’ brothers said to him, “Leave here and go to Judea, where your followers can see your miracles! 4 You can’t become famous if you hide like this! If you can do such wonderful things, show yourself to the world!” 5 For even his brothers didn’t believe in him.*

- * Jesus’ Family Accused Jesus as Mentally Unstable

Mark 3:21 (NLT) *When his family heard what was happening, they tried to take him away. “He’s out of his mind,” they said.*

- * Jesus Scoffed by Family and Friends

Mark 6:1–5 (NLT) *Jesus left that part of the country and returned with his disciples to Nazareth, his hometown. 2 The next Sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. They asked, “Where did he get all this wisdom and the power to perform such miracles?” 3 Then they scoffed, “He’s just a carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon. And his sisters live right here among us.” They were deeply offended and refused to believe in him. 4 Then Jesus told them, “A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his relatives and his own family.” 5 And because of their unbelief, he couldn’t do any miracles among them except to place his hands on a few sick people and heal them.*

- * Jesus Recasts Family

Mark 3:33–35 (NLT) *Jesus replied, “Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?” 34 Then he looked at those around him and said, “Look, these are my mother and brothers. 35 Anyone who does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.”*

*The Lesson

- The lesson is that the Christian's primary citizenship is not his nation, his ethnicity, or even his family, but the Kingdom of God with the people of God.
- The most ardent opposition to a man's walk with Christ often comes from those closest to him.
 - This is a crucial lesson for the apostles.

*JESUS' DEMAND – TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

vss. 37-38

Matthew 10:38–39 (NKJV) And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. 39 He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

*Taking Up Your Cross - Required

- The image of the cross was not a metaphor for “annoyances in life” to a first-century audience; it was the symbol of state-sponsored execution.
- By telling them to take up their cross, Jesus is teaching the apostles that **discipleship is a death sentence to one's own autonomy.**
 - He is teaching them that the “old man”—the one who seeks safety, comfort, and cultural approval—must be put to death.
 - He is dismantling the idea that a man can truly follow Him while still protecting his own social standing or his own personal dreams.
 - He is commanding them to relinquish their right to self-determination.

*The Kingdom's Inverse Paradox

- Finally, Jesus is teaching them the fundamental math of the Kingdom: **You only possess what you give away.**
- In verse 39, He articulates the core paradox: “He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.”
 - He is teaching the apostles that the one who spends his time “finding” his life (securing his future, polishing his reputation, steering for earthly success, maneuvering socially, self-preservation, safety, and cultural normalcy.) has lost his or her life.
 - Conversely, the one who “loses” his life (spending it on the mission, sacrificing it for the Truth, risking his reputation for the Gospel, giving himself away for others' benefit) is the one who has found life.

*APPLICATION

1. The Cost of Truth

- We must prepare for the fact that the Gospel is divisive.
- We are currently living in an era where Christians are being pressured to remain silent about biblical reality—about gender, about authority, about the fallen nature of man—in order to keep the “peace.”
- But Jesus tells us that peace with the world at the expense of Truth is not peace; it is apostasy.
- Expect conflict with those of this world-system.

2. *The Order of Sovereignty

- We hold the family in high regard, but we must never allow it to rival loyalty to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
- Too many suppress their witness compromise their obedience to God because they fear the social fallout within their own families and relationships.
- Jesus says that if your fear of losing the approval of your family or your peers outweighs your desire to obey Jesus, you are not functioning as a disciple.
 - You are an idolator.

3. *The Myth of Self-Preservation

- Christians can be tempted to believe that if they just play their cards right, if they stay quiet, if they maintain their social standing, they can preserve their life and their influence for a “better time.”
- That “life” and influence is the very thing you are losing.
 - The disciple is not one who seeks safety, or success, or status, but he or she is one who pursues obedience and fidelity to Jesus Christ.
 - The disciple is one who realizes that his or her life was bought with a price, and therefore, he or she doesn’t own it anymore.

4. *The Charge

- Do not fear conflict and rejection.
- Stop trying to negotiate with a culture that hates your Master.
- Take up your cross. It is not an ornamental piece of jewelry; it is your death sentence to the world and your liberation certificate for the Kingdom.
- You only find your life once you stop trying to keep it safe.
 - Give it to Him, and watch what He does with it.



1

HARBORVIEW FELLOWSHIP

Equipping people to passionately
Live like Jesus lived,
Do what Jesus did, and
Advance His kingdom together.

2

MISSION MINDSET

MESSAGE THEME

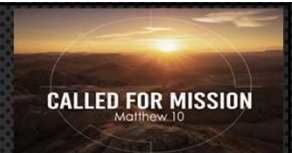


The central theme is: *“Following Jesus is a costly endeavor!”*

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MISSION MINDSET

MESSAGE POINTS



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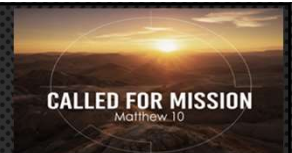


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vs. 34

No Peace
A Sword



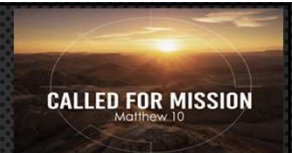
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3. The Myth of Self-Promotion
4. The Charge



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