

KINGDOM COME

- 15 -

The Kingdom & Conflict

****All verses are in the English Standard Version (ESV)
except where otherwise indicated****

- ❖ Misunderstood Verses
- ❖ Context – persecution, faith and courage
- ❖ The cost of following Jesus.
- ❖ God calls us even in the midst of conflict with others.

Matthew 10:34 Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

- Jesus is not talking about starting a war to spread the Gospel.
- This sword is a metaphor of conflict.
- Jesus brings peace with God, but that peace inevitably brings conflict with a world that resists His reign.

- Luke 2:35 Simeon prophesied this sword to Mary at the dedication of Jesus.
- Truth would divide the world between believers and non believers.

Matthew 10:35-36 35 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. 36 And a person's enemies will be those of his own household.

- Tension with someone you love because of your faith
- We have a tendency to appease people because of love and because we don't like conflict.

Matthew 10:37 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.

- Jesus does not tell disciples to abandon families callously, create division intentionally, or provoke conflict unnecessarily.
- The division comes because allegiance to Jesus.

Matthew 10:38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

- He has not been crucified yet.
- Roman Empire rules

- Crucifixion is a capital punishment.
- Common to see guilty people hanging on a cross on the side of the road or carrying the crossbar of the cross to be executed.
- Is there enough evidence to convict you of being a disciple of Jesus?
- Seek first the kingdom...

Matthew 10:39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

- The cost of discipleship is high.
- A life of surrender, sacrifice and holiness is heavy.
- But there is a much heavier price to pay.
- Jesus ends with reassurance.

Matthew 10:40-42 40 “Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. 41 The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. 42 And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”

- Receiving a disciple = receiving Christ.
- Receiving Christ = receiving the Father.
- The reward that can only come through Him.