

Matthew 10:34-39

Big Idea: Following Jesus requires supreme allegiance, even above our most cherished relationships.

Family First

Most of us grew up hearing the admirable phrase "Family comes first." It's on bumper stickers. It's in movies. It's part of our culture. God created the family. God values the family. Some of the greatest blessings in life come through family. Which is why what Jesus says in Matthew 10 is so shocking. He appears to challenge one of the most cherished values in human society. He essentially says: "If you love your family more than Me, you are not worthy of Me." What?!

Reality Of Division

Jesus knew that some families would be divided because of Him. One spouse believes, the other does not. One child follows Christ, the rest of the family rejects Him. This has been true for two thousand years. Not because Christ-followers are looking for conflict, but because truth forces decisions.

Devotion

Jesus is demanding a level of devotion and allegiance reserved for God alone. That's because He is God. The real issue is whether we love anything more than Christ. Most people don't struggle with statues. We struggle with goals and priorities. Sometimes the greatest rival to God isn't something bad. It's something good. Anything that takes God's place becomes an idol. Even good things become dangerous things when they become supreme things.

Practical Applications – 5 Qs

Q1: What competes with Christ for first place in my life? Most idols don't look evil. They look important. What consistently receives my greatest attention, affection, and trust?

Q2: Would I still follow Jesus if it cost me something? Many people follow Jesus as long as following remains convenient. What happens when obedience becomes costly? What happens when faith affects relationships?

Q3: Is Jesus central or supplemental? Has Jesus become part of my life? Or is He the center of my life? There is a huge difference.

Q4: Whose approval matters most to me? Parents? Children? Friends? Coworkers? And God forbid! Social media. Or Christ? Sooner or later every Christ-follower must answer that question.

Q5: What adjustments do I need to make? Today Jesus invites you to something deeper. Not partial allegiance. Not occasional commitment. Not convenient faith. But complete surrender.

Family Night – Read Matthew 10:34-39

- Elementary School – Ask, "What should we do when it is hard to follow Jesus? Who can help us follow Jesus? What should we do when our friends do not follow Jesus? Who should we love most?"
- Middle/ High School – Ask, "What does the 'sword' represent? How does Jesus cause division? Who should be in the center of our lives? What will my life look like when Jesus is in the center or it?"

Prayer: "Father, we want to make Jesus the very center of our lives, supreme and first over everything else. Amen."

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)
Velocity: Velocity Open House this Wed., July 8 at 6:30.
Gravity: No Gravity Today.

Today's Songs
Praise You Anywhere.....Phil Wickham
We Believe.....Newsboys
Open the Eyes of My Heart.....Michael Smith

Baptism Service
 August 16. Use the Communication Card if you have questions.

GCC Building Fund
 We are planning to build a small storage building. The estimate is \$50,000. Please consider giving to our building fund. You can give online, use a building fund envelope available at the welcome desk, or you can write a check and mark it "Building Fund."

Splash in the Boro for GCC is August 2nd
 Cost is \$15 per person or \$45 per family.

Promotion Sunday is August 2nd
 Kids going to pre-school this fall move from The Beginner Class to KidsJAM