

Matthew 10:34-42

“The King Identifies Priorities & Promises Rewards”

In making major decisions it can be helpful to consider the burdens and the benefits – to count the cost. The most important decision that anyone will ever make is whether or not to follow Jesus. Jesus said that choice will cost you plenty. But He also assured you that the benefits so clearly outweighed the costs that you would gladly choose to follow Him. Do you want to know the costs and benefits of following Jesus?

Discussion Qs

1. In what ways does being Jesus' disciple reflect making Him king in every realm of life (personal, marriage, family, career, calling, and community)?
2. What are some of the benefits of receiving God?
3. How can rewards motivate believers?
4. How can we love neighbors for Christ's sake where we live, work, study, and play better?

Pastor Robb Oram Mobil Ave. Campus

subject: the costs & benefits of following Jesus Christ

objective: love Jesus most & follow Jesus closely

I. conflict: following Jesus will create division (vv. 34-36)

A. Jesus didn't come to bring peace on earth

1. Jesus came to bring peace between man & God

B. following Jesus will create division in our family

II. commitment: following Jesus means loving Him most (vv. 37-39)

A. we're called to love Jesus more than family

1. being a Christian is about a love relationship with Jesus Christ

B. we're called to love Jesus more than life

1. dying to this world means living for Jesus Christ

III. compensation: following Jesus will be rewarded (vv. 40-42)

A. receiving Jesus is receiving God

B. receiving Jesus' followers will be rewarded

Pastor Bruce Zachary Lewis Rd. campus

Jesus is our King and the Career Realm:

When Jesus is king in your life then people where you work or study know that you are His disciple.

Matt. 10:34-42 "The King Identifies Priorities and Promises Rewards"

Intro. In making major decisions it can be helpful to consider the burdens and the benefits – to count the cost. The most important decision that anyone will ever make is whether or not to follow Jesus. Jesus said that choice will cost you plenty. But He also assured you that the benefits so clearly outweighed the costs that you would gladly choose to follow Him. Do you want to know the costs and benefits of following Jesus?

Subject: The costs and benefits of being Jesus' disciple

Object: Choose to follow Jesus

Context: Jesus prepares his disciples for opposition as they reach a community with the gospel. If we declare our identity with Him in this life, He will identify with us in the life to come, but if we deny Him then He must deny us in the life to come [16-33]

I. Conflict: Jesus' disciples will experience conflict for their faith [34-36]

A. Christ causes division between believers and those they love [34-36]

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

1. Jesus brings conflict between those follow Him and those that don't

2. The only way to avoid conflict with loved ones is to compromise Christ & His call

2Tim. 3:12 All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution

a. We want unity, but we can't forsake Christ or the gospel to try to preserve unity

II. Commitment: Jesus' disciples are fully committed despite the cost [37-38]

A. Christ's disciples choose Him ahead of loved ones [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: In Jewish society there is a premium on relationship with parents and honoring them [Ex. 20].

1. Those who choose loved ones over Christ are not worthy of Jesus

a. Tension, conflict, strife, and sometimes alienation are a cost of being His disciple

2. Jesus' gospel of grace and salvation is available to those who put Christ before all other human relationships.

a. Abraham and Isaac [Gen. 22]

B. Christ's disciples are required to die to self and follow Him [38] And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

1. Taking your cross is a symbol of death to self, and yielding your will to Jesus

a. We are to take up our cross daily [Lu.9:23]

b. Rom. 12:1-2

2. Following Jesus requires us to choose to walk in His ways

a. No sense in having followers that don't follow

In what ways does being Jesus' disciple reflect making Him king in every realm of life (personal, marriage, family, career, calling, and community)?

III. Compensation: Jesus' disciples are greatly rewarded for their choice [39-42]

A. In choosing Christ, and death to self, you discover life [39] He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

1. Abandon yourself to Jesus and experience abundant life and eternal life

a. Jesus instructs us to die to self and the world says live for self

Jim Elliot: He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose. God always gives His best to those who leave the choice with Him

B. Those who receive the message and messengers (i.e. advance the gospel) will be rewarded by the One who sends the message [40-41]

1. Those who receive the message and messenger receive God [40] He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.

a. What are some of the benefits of receiving God?

2. Those who receive the message & advance the gospel will be rewarded [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.

a. The reward of a prophet flowed from hearing God speak & declaring truth

i. A prophet's reward is considered greater than a king's or a priest's, because the prophets instructed the king and priest

b. The reward of a righteous man flows from being right with God through Jesus

How can rewards motivate believers? [Cf. Matt. 6:19-21, 33]

C. Those who bless others for Christ's sake shall be rewarded [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.”

1. Promised rewards for even simple acts of kindness and compassion

a. These little ones: likely reference to humble classes of people, not children. The idea of blessing people who cannot bless you in return

b. cup of cold *water*: God notices and will reward even the smallest acts

c. How can we love neighbors for Christ’s sake better where we live, work, study, and play?

Conc: Choose to follow Jesus