

August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## “Whoever Disowns Me...”

*Genesis 1-3; Matthew 10:32-39 (NLT)*

**Matthew 10:32-33 (NLT)** *<sup>32</sup>Everyone who acknowledges me publicly (before others) here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. <sup>33</sup>**BUT** everyone who denies me here on earth, I will also deny before my Father in heaven. (emphasis added)*

Jesus came to reconcile us or to close the gap between us and God. He came to be the ultimate sacrifice for our sins, so that we can be forgiven and set free from the bondage of sin, death, and Satan. Jesus simply says, “**acknowledge Me**”—Acknowledge who I am, and who I am to you... God, Savior, Lord, which then practically leads us to following Him, and obeying Him in our everyday life. Remember, Jesus says, “*I will also acknowledge you before God the Father... **BUT** if you deny me... I will deny you!*”

### And in saying that Jesus drew a huge line in the sand...

*<sup>34</sup> “Don’t imagine that I came to bring peace to the earth! I came not to bring peace, but a sword.*

Not a peace that brings harmony and happiness to all the world...

**BUT...**

A peace that is centered on a relationship with God and being in right standing with Him!

**Romans 5:1 (NLT)** *Therefore, since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.*

This was the #1 thing that Jesus came to do. Bring peace to our relationship with God. Where we were once His enemy because of our sin and rebellion, now we are at peace with Him as His sons and daughters.

And because we are now at peace with God we can have internal peace as well, which is why Paul wrote this...

**Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)** *<sup>6</sup> Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. <sup>7</sup> Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.*

**Jesus is the Prince of Peace, but the peace He came to bring was peace between us and God...**

*<sup>35</sup>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. <sup>36</sup>Your enemies will be right in your own household! <sup>37</sup> “If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine. <sup>38</sup> If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. <sup>39</sup> If you cling to your life, you will lose it; **BUT** if you give up your life for me, you will find it. (emphasis added)*

### Again, Jesus draws a line...

Which side are you going to be on? Mine or the world’s? What is most important to you? Me or your stuff, your job, your spouse, your kids, your money, your status, your reputation, your schooling,

your friends, etc.

If Jesus comes second to anything, then you have not made Him Lord of that area of your life...

**Matthew 12:30 (NLT)** <sup>30</sup> *“Anyone who isn’t with me opposes me, and anyone who isn’t working with me is actually working against me.”*

A lot of people acknowledge Jesus as Savior but deny Him as Lord!

### **Are you denying Jesus?**

- Are you refusing to do something that God has told you to do?
- Are you prioritizing your goals, hobbies, and interests above Jesus’ mission?
- Are your kids, families, jobs more important to you than Him?
- Are you making time to attend church, serve, be a part of a life group?
- Are your finances reflecting what you believe about Jesus?
- What is an area of your life that doesn’t look like the person of Jesus?
- Are you allowing the Holy Spirit to transform you?

### **TO DISCUSS IN LIFE GROUP OR WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS:**

**Opening Question:** What stood out to you most from the sermon this week?

**Main Point:** Everything should pale in comparison to our relationship with Jesus.

**Read/Tell the Story:** **Matthew 10:32-42**

1. What does it mean to deny Christ to the world?
2. What does it mean to acknowledge Christ?
3. What or who in your life could compete for first place with God?
4. We know that God values unity, but the sword of truth doesn’t always lead to unity. How do you decide when to fight for truth or when to fight for unity?
5. What has been life-giving for you about following Jesus?