

Sermon OutlineNOTES

I. The Consequences of Confessing Christ (Matthew 10:34-36)

- A. What confessing Christ entails (Matthew 10:33-33)
 - 1. That Jesus us Lord (Romans 10:9)
 - 2. To take Jesus' yoke upon us to bear fruit in keeping with repentance (Matthew 11:28-30; 11:20; John 15:8)
- B. Jesus reorients our expectations (Matthew 10:34; Luke 12:51)
 - 1. There is an ancient conflict that is still raging (Genesis 3:15; James 4:4; John 15:19)
 - 2. The peace Jesus gives is a result of his redemptive work on the cross and resurrection (John 14:27; 16:33; Colossians 2:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:8)
- C. Confessing Christ is a declaration of war, which is inherently divisive (Matthew 10:35-36)
 - 1. Our allegiance to Christ may cause us to be divided from our closest relationships—our family (**Matthew 10:35**)
 - 2. We may come to find that our own families are filled with hostility (Matthew 10:36)
 - 3. Jesus knows what rejection and isolation from family is like (Mark 3:13-21; John 7:2-5)

II. Count the Cost to Confessing Christ (Matthew 10:37-39)

- A. Being worthy of Jesus means being fit to be his disciple (Matthew 10:37)
 - 1. Jesus demands total allegiance only God could demand such a thing (Luke 14:33; 1 Peter 3:15)
 - 2. Our affections reveal our allegiances (Exodus 20:3; Deuteronomy 6:5; Matthew 22:36-40)
- B. We must count the cost of discipleship (Matthew 10: 38; Luke 14:25-33)
- C. The paradox of following Jesus is that we only find our true life once we give it up for Christ (Matthew 10:39)
 - 1. Those who confess Christ are redeemed and renewed after the image of Christ (Colossians 3:10; Romans 8:28-29; Ephesians 2:10)
 - 2. Our truest life is in Christ. To be like Him is enough (Matthew 10:25)
 - 3. The Christ-life we live is a paradox and counter-cultural (Luke 6:20-36)

Sermon Reflections

1. What does is mean to confess Christ? What would it look like for someone to live as though Jesus is Lord?

2. Jesus says that he did not come to bring peace and yet elsewhere in the Bible Jesus says he gives peace. How can you resolve this seeming contradiction?

MATTHEW 10:34-39

"Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughterin-law against her motherin-law. 36 And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. 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. 38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

3. How is confessing Christ a form of declaring war? What might that look like practically?

4. What does it mean to count the cost of discipleship? Why do you think it's so important to count the cost? When it comes to the drastic measures involved in following Jesus, how do you feel about them? What thoughts do you have about them?

5. Why is following Jesus paradoxical? How is it counter-cultural?

6. Do you think there is a connection between living like Jesus (paradoxical discipleship) and the division Jesus talks about? If so, what is it? Why?