

Discussion & Reflection Questions

Pentecost 4A 25th of June 2023

Read: Matthew 10.24-39

- ²⁴ 'A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master;
²⁵ it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!
- ²⁶ 'So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known.
- ²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops.
- ²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.
- ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father.
- ³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted.
- ³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.
- ³² 'Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven;
- ³³ but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.
- ³⁴ '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 daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;
- ³⁶ and one's foes will be members of one's 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 up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me.
- ³⁹ Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

Discussion & Reflection Questions

1. How do you approach difficult passages in the bible?
2. Do you have a particular approach or pattern to how you read the bible? Do you find it helpful to read with others or use a daily devotional or study guide?

3. This passage has some very strong themes about division, what do you think Jesus means by division?
4. Do Jesus words relate to the division we currently see in the world? Do they relate to the division we see within the Church?
5. Have you ever read any bible commentaries or books written by bible scholars? How have you found them? What helps you best understand scripture?
6. Some scholars say this passage is a mixture of Jesus' sayings put together by Matthew. Which verse(s) challenge you the most? Which verse(s) do you find the most comforting?

Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray,
and give more than either we desire or deserve:
pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid,
and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask,
save through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ,
your Son our Lord. Amen.