

Matthew 10:34-39 Making a Supreme Sacrifice for Him Who has Made a Supreme Sacrifice for Us

Introduction: Jesus commissioned the twelve to preach the gospel. He warned them that they would face persecution, both religious and political. In our text He calls upon them to make a supreme sacrifice for Him.

I. The thing that sets off the persecution.

- A. It was the first coming of Jesus that set off the persecution.
- B. He said that He did not come to bring peace, but a sword, Verse 34.
(This is surprising from one whose birth was announced by angels saying, "Peace on earth, good will toward men.")
- C. Why did Jesus here speak such words?
 - 1. Not because He expected His disciples to wage war on unbelievers, Roman 12:18.
 - 2. But because Jesus knew that at His coming men would rise up against Him and against His followers.
- D. The peace spoken of by the angel at His birth was not a peace between the individual and the world.
 - 1. Rather it is a peace between the individual and God.
 - 2. Then when he has found peace with God, he will find persecution in the world.
 - 3. The world will persecute him, not because of faults and failures, but because of the Christ whom he represents. (They differ with him on religious matters.)

II. Persecution even from within the family.

- A. Not all persecution will come from strangers, but from within the family.
(The very closest loved ones will become bitter enemies.) Verses 35-36.
- B. But the believer is to love Jesus more than he loves the family, Verse 37.
 - 1. We are not being called upon to break from the family.
 - 2. But to love Jesus more.

III. Jesus, making the supreme sacrifice, Verse 38

- A. Jesus speaks of the believer taking up his cross and following after Jesus.
- B. Following Jesus how? What does Jesus say that He is going to do?
 - 1. Jesus says that He is going to take up His cross first, before the disciples do.
 - 2. For the first time He reveals to them the manner of His death.
(He will die on the cross for men.)
 - 3. And He will carry the cross upon which He will be crucified. (As was Roman custom.)
- C. "I will make the supreme sacrifice for you."

IV. The believer called upon to make the supreme sacrifice for Jesus, Verse 38.

- A. "If you will not take up your cross for me you are not worthy of me."
(He does not say they are not saved, but they are not worthy of being called Christians.)
- B. The emphasis here is not Christian service, but on a willingness to die for Jesus.

V. Living one's life for Jesus.

- A. Verse 39 puts the emphasis on Christian service and living the sacrificial life for Jesus.
- B. If one finds his life he loses it.
 - 1. If one in this life lives his life selfishly for what he can get out of it, he will lose it.
 - 2. He lives for wealth, pleasure, power, fame, etc. and he will lose them all eventually; then what will he have in eternity?

- C. If one is willing to give up the things he might ordinarily desire for himself and live his life for Jesus, he will gain it.
1. Even in this life he will gain a joy within that is worth more than all the world.
 2. Then in the next life he will have riches untold in reward.

Conclusion:

1. Jesus paid the supreme sacrifice for you that you might not spend eternity in hell. Have you trusted in Him for your salvation? If not, then do so right now.
2. If you are saved than Jesus wants you to be willing to die for him if necessary.
3. Equally as much He wants you to live for Him.
(Love Jesus more than anything and anybody in this world.)

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