

Episode #745 – Matthew 10 Part 5-Destroying the Soul

I. The purpose of the gospel of Matthew is to present Jesus as the Christ, the King of Israel. It is another grand treatise like John to prove to Israel Who Jesus really is. It is the book of being “in Israel,” in contrast to believers today who are “in Christ.”

II. In Matthew 10, the Lord was commissioning His twelve disciples for a mission on which He was sending them. He was giving them instructions as to how they were to carry out that mission, and told them that, as disciples, their job was to try to be like their Master-Teacher. Today, He continues explaining to them the goal of a disciple.

III. Opposition to His Disciples. Matthew 10:16-26.

A. Verse 25. The goal of the disciple was to be like his master-teacher. The best a slave could do is become like his master, as Joseph did. The “master of the house” is the *oikodespotes*. The noun seems to be used exclusively of men, but the verb, *oikodespoteo*, is used only of (young) women in I Timothy 5:14. Beelzeboul is the “lord of the dunghill,” a play on Beelzebub, “lord of the flies,” in mockery of him. The lord of the flies was a pagan idol of the Ekronites (II Kings 1:2), but the Jews used this as a mocking name for Satan.

B. Verse 26. Nothing veiled will not be unveiled. This refers to the Day of Judgment. This will be true as far as the wicked secrets men try to keep hidden are concerned, for which they will be brought into judgment. Of course, when we are in relationship with God there may be private things in our relationships that He might never make known. But that is not what He is talking about here.

IV. Speaking the Truth. Matthew 10:27-33.

A. Matthew 10:27. Dark is private; light is public. We think of someone standing on a housetop in order to shout things out publicly to the world, but that is not the idea. They had porches on their roofs where families would meet in the cool of the evenings. This is where people would meet socially.

B. Verse 28. “Kill” here has the idea of unjust execution by hateful leaders. “Able” is *dunamenon*, meaning having the inherent power to. “Destroy” is a different word from “kill” or execute, the Greek *apollumi*.

1. See Luke 12:4-5, which has “after He hath killed.” This helps us understand the meaning.
2. Many professing Christians just use these passages to prove or disprove what they want by these verses. Any honest consideration of these passages will only be accomplished by those whose minds are saturated in the truth of the Old Testament.
 - a. The Greek word *psuche*, soul, is the same as the Hebrew word *nephesh*, also soul. One who follows *nephesh* out will find that the Bible often speaks of men killing the soul.
 - b. Numbers 31:19; 35:11, 15, 30.
 - c. Deuteronomy 27:25.
 - d. Joshua 11:11; 20:3, 9.
 - e. In light of these verses we can say with certainty that the Word of God speaks of men killing the soul.

- f. This is an apparent conflict, when the Old Testament speaks of men killing the soul and the New Testament passages say men are not able to kill the soul.
3. These seemingly conflicting statements harmonize immediately when we understand that in Matthew 10:28 and Luke 12:5 there is no reference to murder or manslaughter. Luke 12:5 speaks of God killing, and God does not murder or manslaughter anyone.
4. The context indicates to bring to an end by judicial decree. The courts of this world can do this as far as man's bodily aspect, ordering capital punishment and execution. But they cannot do this to man as a soul. Yet God can.
5. No human court can settle your destiny. God alone can do this.
6. Hell = the Greek *Gehenna*. We discussed this in Matthew 5, a valley where human sacrifice was carried out; later a garbage dump where the worst criminals would be disposed of. A figure for God's disposal of the wicked.
7. Romans 3:23 tells us all lack the esteem of God. We are all in danger of Gehenna. That is why we need a Savior, and Jesus Christ is the Savior we need. Romans 3:24, we are justified freely by His grace!

V. Conclusion: A disciple is not better than his master-teacher, so if they thought the Lord was an agent of Satan, they will think this of His disciples as well. Are we willing to be hated and suffer shame for the sake of our connection with Jesus Christ? They are to openly teach all He revealed to them. They are not to fear those who can judicially kill the body, but cannot kill the soul. When we connect this to the Old Testament testimony, we realize He is talking about men's ultimate destiny. God can always raise a man from the dead, and no human court can stop it. Yet those whom God considers worthless, He will dispose of in His great Gehenna. Let us find ourselves esteemed by God through our relationships to Jesus Christ!