

## Episode #746 Matthew 10 Part 6-Value and Division

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 warned them they would be persecuted, but they are not to fear men, but God. Men can kill the body but not the soul, but God can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. We discussed just what this destruction means. Now, we continue His instructions.

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

- A. Verse 29. Copper coin = Greek *assarium*, a coin worth a tenth (sixteenth?) of a drachma (a tenth of a day’s wages for a typical laborer). Two sparrows are very cheap. Luke 12:6 says five for two copper coins, so one extra is thrown in. Yet even the extra one thrown in is noticed. Why are sparrows so important? Because God gives them life, and so they bear importance to Him.
- B. Verse 30. “Numbered” is *arithmeo*. A mechanic numbers things when he takes them apart so he can put them together again. That is what this emphasizes, not that the hairs are counted. The smallest detail to remake you is noted and will be accomplished and restored by God. God looks after me that closely. I might die and all who knew me die and I would be entirely forgotten. But not by God!
- C. Verse 31. “Value” is the Greek word *diaphero*, to carry through, which has multiple connotations. Here it seems to be that you carry more value than many sparrows. Of course sparrows are not worth much, so don’t get big-headed. The Lord may be speaking with some irony here, implying that all men should know they have far more value than sparrows, so why would we fear?
- D. Verse 32. Confess = *homologeio*, to express the same thing in fellowship with another. “Men” is people, the Greek *anthropon*. It isn’t just about giving a testimony, but testifying before people that one is a sinner with a Savior, Jesus Christ.
- E. Verse 33. “Deny” is *arneomai*, not related to *homologeio*. It means to deny, repudiate, reject, refuse.

IV. The Lord brings division. Matthew 10:34-39.

- A. Verse 34. “Think” means to suppose or hold by custom. Of course, one could point to Old Testament indications that the Messiah would bring peace. Peace in this case means unity and harmony, because of the following verses. Not this time! The sword in this case means not violence, but division.
- B. Verse 35. If the son believes and the father does not, this sets the two at variance. This can happen just because someone has cast his lot with the Lord Jesus Christ. Just the presence of Christ in the life causes this conflict. Daughter-in-law is *numphe*, a veiled one, a betrothed or married young woman, recently brought into the family. Her mother-in-law now to be considered her mother since she has married into the family. For these to be at odds would be somewhat unusual, and far from peaceful!
- C. Verse 36. Typically enemies were people outside the household, and people within your household were supposed to be the ones on your side.
- D. Verse 37. Loves is *philon*, to be fond or affectionate toward, loving like a friend. Christ must have the supremacy of our love. Those who set aside their loyalty to the

Lord Jesus Christ for the sake of their families are not worthy of Him in the first place. Consider the example of the high priest Eli in I Samuel 2-3.

- E. Verse 38. The cross was a Roman method of capital punishment. The Jewish method was stoning. The Roman method was beheading, but Rome had also developed a more fiendish way of putting men to death called crucifixion, reserved for rebels and slaves. Was not supposed to be legal for free Roman citizens to be executed this way. Greek is *stauros*, a stake. In spite of the strict meaning of the word, I do not believe there is much doubt but that this was crucifixion. If it was simply a stake with no crosspiece, why were “nails” used in the Lord’s hands, rather than a single nail, John 20:25? The cross is a burden and a shameful thing. The victim carried it through the streets while the public mocked and spit on him. So the burden and humiliation of standing for Christ. We should never be ashamed of the gospel, of the few people who believe, of the little group we fellowship with, etc. Paul was not ashamed.

V. Conclusion: The Lord sent out His disciples, assuring them of their value with God. They are to confess and speak the same as Him before men. He did not come to bring peace on earth, but the sword of division between those who believe in Him and those who do not. They are to be willing to take up even the cross and follow Him. Are we willing to be at odds with our families for the Lord’s sake? Are we willing to face hardship and humiliation with Him? Let us strive to be worthy of this Lord we serve!