

BIG IDEA: When we’re committed to Jesus, we’ll be his selfless and sacrificial disciples.

1) INTRO

- Tax season - extra \$ - comfort/peace/ease
 - We like to be comfortable...we avoid pain/difficulty
 - But, Jesus doesn’t call us to that
 - See the opposite in text
 - Struggles/difficulty will come

2) DIVISION IN FAMILIES (vv34-36)

- Context – Jesus sends out his 12 disciples in chap 10
 - Chap 10 is JC giving them instructions
 - What to do & what to expect
 - Disciples – as followers of JC, we’re also his disciples
 - These are words for us
 - “disciple” – 269x / “Christian” – 3x
- “Not peace, but a sword” WHAT??
 - Lk 2 – the angel declared “peace on earth”
 - Jn 14 – Upper Room, “peace I leave w/ you, peace give you”
 - Isaiah 9 – JC is pointed to as the Prince of Peace
 - In OT - Messiah bring political peace & material prosperity
 - Today – if trust in JC, all troubles will disappear
- Peace w/ God – b/c of what JC has done (the Gospel!)
- “Sword” – picture of division / split in half – “strife and persecution”
- Conflict w/ others – family relationships, persecution, martyrdom
 - And, we don’t have to go looking for it...we shouldn’t
 - Young couple moves, gets saved, & home for Christmas
 - Some of us have stories that are similar
 - Jesus said this would happen
 - Even in the strong tie/bond of “family”
- vv35-36, JC is quoting Micah 7:6...this time has come
- Even families will be fractured/broken
 - We expect families to be united in love for each other...safe

- Sproul – church no miracles, freshman in college...mother was furious b/c it was a rejection of everything she, father, church taught
 - Muslims expelled, Jews funeral, Rom Cath severe opposition
- The call to discipleship can be costly...are we willing to risk family?
 - Praise the Lord some of us haven’t had to forsake family

3) WILLING TO DIE FOR JESUS (vv37-39)

- Lk 14 - hate father, mother, wife, brothers, sisters, children, own life
- Family - a gift/joy/blessing/to not neglect...picture of family of God
 - But, not over and above Jesus
- Allegiance to Jesus is what’s at issue here
 - Regardless of the cost, we’re to faithfully follow/live for Jesus
 - Even if it means losing our family...or our lives
- When baptized here – asked if willing to die for JC
- Love JC more than family...also even more than own life
- Cross is a picture of death – the point of Roman cross was death
 - Like electric chair – it had one purpose...to kill & was violent
- JC demands total commitment – dying to self or even physical death
- I pray that, if given chance to be rejected or die for JC, I’d say “yes”
 - In N America - threat of death is minimal
 - But, we’re consistently pinched b/c of what Bible says

4) WE ARE ABOUT THE MESSAGE OF GOOD NEWS (vv40-42)

- We’re the only Bible some people will read
- We represent JC – ambassadors heralding the good news
- We received the reward of eternal life when we heard the Gospel
 - Others receive reward of eternal life when they receive us
 - To receive the message is to receive Jesus
- We’re all given this responsibility...as disciples

5) CONCL

- To be a disciple is to be a missionary – to our children, neighbors, coworkers, classmates