



# **MATTHEW**

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

## **The King's Disciples!**

**Matthew 10:32-42**

Message #30 of 80 – S1060

**Sermon given on August 27, 2023**



**Sunday Morning Service**

**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# The King's Disciples!

*Matthew 10:32-42*

## Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 10**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- If you are here or watching online, there is a good chance that Jesus touched your heart and you repented of your sins and you put your trust in Him.
- In that instant, the Holy Spirit came into your life and sealed you for heaven.
- As a born-again believer of Christ Jesus, you are heaven bound.
- The question I would like to deal with today is, 'Is that enough?'
- Is it enough to have your sins forgiven and have the promise of eternal life?
- Is there more to the Christian life than that?
- Let's pray and ask the Holy Spirit to open our spiritual eyes to see. - **Pray**

## Teaching

- **The King's Disciples!**
- Chapter ten began with Jesus calling the Twelve disciples and Him sending them out to preach His message to the people of Israel.
- The rest of the chapter is a continuation of last week's text.
- **Matthew 10:32-33**
- Jesus is sending out the disciples to share the kingdom of God with the Jews.
- He just told them not to be afraid of what they might do in response to the disciples' message and miracles.
- These two verses give us the two possible responses to the gospel message.
- We either receive Christ and confess Him or we reject Him and deny Him.

- If you share Christ with someone and they respond by giving their life to Jesus, Jesus goes before the Father in heaven and confesses their name to Him.
  - If they reject the message, they are denying Christ and He will deny them before the Father.
  - That is the primary application of this verse – the response of unbelievers to the message.
  - Another application is for believers.
  - To confess is to make a public profession of faith. **Mark Moore** “While lifestyle evangelism is appropriate, it is not sufficient. We must, at some point, confess Jesus with our mouths.”
  - To be a true believer there must, at some point, be a public profession of faith.
  - Then Jesus makes a statement that is confusing for a lot of people.
  - **Matthew 10:34**
  - Jesus is the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6-7) and yet here He says He did not come to bring peace but a sword/war.
  - Jesus’ purpose in coming was not to sow discord, but that would be the effect of His coming.
  - Peace is only possible when we humble ourselves before God and yield to the work of the Holy Spirit.
  - Once we do that, those who have not done that may not approve of the changes God will bring into our lives and that will result in conflict.
  - **Matthew 10:35-36**
  - Jesus desires peace but not at the expense of salvation, discipleship, and truth.
  - The cross is offensive to those who are at war with God (**Romans 8:6-8**).
- For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.**
- <sup>7</sup> Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. <sup>8</sup> So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.**
- If you turn away from your sin, you might also have to turn away from certain people.
  - Part of being a disciple is a radical shift in your priorities.
  - **Matthew 10:37**
  - Jesus is making a very strong statement here.

- This is a call for absolute supremacy in love of Christ.
- If Jesus isn't loved more than anything else in this world, then we don't really love Him at all.
- But loving Jesus is not easy, nor is it cheap!
- Now comes the uncomfortable part of this message.
- **Matthew 10:38**
- We need to pause for a moment and make a distinction between a believer and a disciple.
- The term 'follow after' is used to describe a disciple or learner.
- A believer has heard the gospel, repented of their sin, and received Christ.
- A disciple has done that and then made the conscious choice to 'follow after' Jesus.
- A believer is passive, and a disciple is active.
- A believer might be a good and moral person, but their faith is not growing and challenging them to change.
- A disciple is actively seeking to know Christ and to allow the Holy Spirit to transform them into Christ's image through a growing knowledge of God's Word.
- The words 'take' and 'follow' are in a form that indicates these are active ongoing realities.
- An expanded way for reading it would be:  
**And he who does not take [and continuously take] his cross and follow [and continuously follow] after Me is not worthy of Me.**
- You can't be passive in your faith and be a disciple.
- The cross was the Roman form of capital punishment.
- The Jews used stoning. The cross was not just for execution.
- It tortured its victims and humiliated them.
- By using this image, Jesus is prophesying regarding His death.
- He is also creating a vivid image of the life of a disciple.
- There is a reason why some people become believers but not disciples.
- The cross a disciple is to take up daily is a picture of death, torture, and humiliation. Not literally, probably.
- First – **Take up your cross – Death!**

- To be a true disciple of Christ one must count their life as lost for Christ (**Philippians 3:7**).

**But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.**

- This means that you would willingly sacrifice your life for Christ.
- You are unlikely to be called to die for Christ – but you will be called to live for Him.
- Second – **Take up your cross – Torture!**
- It is unlikely that any of us will experience literal torture as a disciple of Christ, but we must be willing to suffer for Him.
- This might be as simple as discomfort or inconvenience but could include real suffering.
- This could mean the loss of a relationship, the loss of a position or promotion.
- It usually includes the loss of opportunities.
- Many opportunities that come our way will tempt us to compromise our faith in Christ.
- Second – **Take up your cross – Humiliation!**
- The cross was a humiliating way to die.
- The victim was stripped and then hung on a cross in a very public place.
- A placard with their crime was nailed over their head.
- It could take several days to die on the cross.
- Humility is one of the signs of a true disciple of Christ.
- Humility is a choice we make by the influence of the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 5:6-7).

**Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, <sup>7</sup> casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.**

- Death, torture, and humiliation are not all a true disciple's life is all about.
- There is joy, peace, hope, love, grace, mercy, and all the good God wants for you in this life.
- But a true disciple is not focused on those things, the good or the bad, but on knowing Christ and making Him known to others, even if that means death, torture, and humiliation.
- This Scripture is telling us to do as Christ did.

- We are to wholeheartedly follow God's will for our lives regardless of where that will is leading us.
- If God's will leads into discomfort or inconvenience, He knew it would before He called us.
- And if we obey God, His grace will carry us through whatever His will leads us into.
- We must be careful of what we are focused on in this life.
- **Matthew 10:39**
- The abundant life that Jesus promised (John 10:10) is not lived by living an easy life.
- That life is lived when we let go of our lives and turn them over to Jesus.
- The abundant life can only be lived through the cross of Christ and by taking up our cross daily.
- If we live for this life, all we get is this life. If we live for eternal life, we get eternal life AND all the good God wants for us in this life.
- As the disciples prepare to go out, Jesus sends them with a promise to those who receive and welcome them and their message.
- **Matthew 10:40-42**
- This is a powerful promise to those who come alongside those who are actively serving in the ministry.
- Over the years many have commented to me that they couldn't do what I do.
- The reason for that is because I was called, equipped, and sent to do this. They weren't!
- Here Jesus says that those who help those who were called, equipped, and sent, they will receive the same rewards as those doing the work.
- You may not be able to stand in front of a group of people and preach a sermon, but if you help someone who can, you will receive the same reward from Jesus as that preacher. I think that is cool.
- Each one of us needs to examine our heart.
- Is your faith passive or active.
- Can you honestly say you take up your cross and continue to take up your cross and follow Jesus and continue to follow Jesus.

- Is your faith living and active and is it stale?
- At the end of verse 38 Jesus said that if you are not doing that, you are not worthy of Jesus – or you don't deserve Him and what He did for you on the cross.
- This might be a tough message to hear.
- And many churches wouldn't teach it because they wouldn't want to make you uncomfortable.
- It made me uncomfortable writing it and teaching it.
- But I would rather make you uncomfortable for a few minutes than sit back and let you be unworthy of Jesus.
- If you are a believer this morning – awesome.
- Let's choose to take our cross and follow Jesus as one of His disciples.
- Amen?!