

Lunch Time Bible Study
God With Us
A Study of Matthew: "The Sword and the Cross"
Matthew 10:34-39

September 4, 2018

"Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it" (Matthew 10:39)

I. No Peace, but a Sword? (vv. 34-36)

- a. The Sword is the Word of God that disciples carry in their hearts.
- b. Wait a minute! *Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth.* Isn't Jesus the Prince of Peace? What about, *Peace on earth and good will toward men?*
- c. Wait a minute! What about, *Honor thy mother and thy father*, (5th Commandment)?
- d. What Jesus is referring to is a conflict of decision for those who are closest to us. (i.e. family) Because of our decision to follow Christ, family will separate from us.
 1. Jesus promises peace on earth to men of "good will" to those whom His favor rests.
 2. Division will come because a few will believe in Christ, but most will oppose it.
 3. Read John 7:1-10; Mark 3:21, 31-35; John 19:26-27
 4. Jesus prioritizes loyal discipleship over social relationships found with friends & family.
- e. The moment someone decides to be a disciple (not just attend church), trouble starts. The father won't like it, the mother-in-law, or the son, or someone else close.
- f. Christians are to love. We are not to turn our backs on family, because they do not believe. (e.g. James) (Read James 4:4; 5:19)
- g. Notice that Jesus did not say, *I have come to set husband against wife.* Why?

II. The Lost Life (vv.37)

- a. Some people's passion is to "make it" in this life, to be safe and secure. This is too selfish.
- b. The "lost life" refers to what has been left behind. What has been left behind? The worldly life includes: former attitudes, worldly associations, worldly friendships, and worldly family values.
- c. Losing the life that you know is required in order to find the life that you will find through Christ.
- d. Jesus puts Himself in competition with our favorites. The Lord knows you love family, but do you love *Him* more? *Do you love Me more than these?* (John 21:15)
- e. Discipleship and the cross are designed to *separate* you from this world while *sending* you into this world.

III. Thoughts and Considerations for Action (vv.38-39)

- a. Now Jesus brings this entire teaching home when He says, *whoever does not take his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me.*
- b. Can you think of anything more painful than being raised by or growing up with a loved one and not seeing them in eternity?
- c. This is but one example of the "cross of pain" that a disciple will have to experience.
 1. How painful is it to plead with a loved family member to receive Christ, but they do not.
 2. Some family members will despise, oppose and, even separate you from other family.
- d. We must lose this worldly life (temporary) in order to gain the new life (eternal) with Christ.
- e. Jesus speaks this prophetic word to remind us that even when it looks like you are failing, you are succeeding.
- f. It is painful to know, that everyone you love and those who love you, cannot be with you forever.
- g. Be encouraged! Christ can use your discipleship to lead family/friends to salvation.