

**MATTHEW (THE KING, HIS KINGDOM AND ME)
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WEEK 4 (910343)
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SERIES: Matthew (The King, His Kingdom And Me)

TITLE: Program 16 – The Cost Of Discipleship

MONDAY

OPEN

I'm in the Galilee and this is where Jesus said to many, "Come and follow Me." He made it very clear though, what it would cost to follow Him: It would cost absolutely everything. One relationship would have to be supreme and that would be their relationship to Him. What He said to them here in the Galilee He says to you today. Come with me and let's study His precepts for life.

PART ONE

As Jesus commissions His twelve disciples, and He also calls them twelve apostles, He wants them to understand that He is giving them power. That they are going to face persecution. You know it's all right when you face persecution from the world. That is what you expect. But when it comes from your loved ones, when it comes from brothers or sisters or mothers or fathers then it is very, very difficult. In Matthew chapter 10, as we continue

in this chapter, He says in verse 21, **“Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death.” (Matthew 10:21)** Can you imagine your own child rising up against you? It is so painful, so very, very painful. But then to have your child say, “Put ‘em to death, put ‘em to death, I don’t want to see them anymore. I don’t care about them.” Can you imagine the broken heart? Can you imagine the pain from that broken relationship? Some of you have experienced pain like that. Some of you have been rejected from your loved ones and you’ve felt rejection from your loved ones. And some of you have felt rejection from your own children, from your own mother, from your own father because of the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus wants those who are followers of Him, who are disciples of Him, to understand that relationships are many times going to be fragmented and divided because of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He says, **“You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured [until] the end who will be saved.” (Matthew 10:22)** He wants them to understand that with this persecution there needs to be endurance. You cannot fail. You cannot falter. You cannot turn away. Expect it and know that it may come or that it is going to come and in the midst of that persevere. Always when Jesus talks about trials, whenever you read about trials in the Word of God, you always see the word “perseverance” or you see the word “endurance.” It’s the word “Hupomone,” which means “to abide under,” in other words, the situation is not to break you. The situation is not to deter you from what God has called you to be and what God has called you to do. He says, **“But whenever they persecute you in one city, flee to the next; for truly I say to you, you will not finish going through the cities of Israel until the Son of Man comes. A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master.” (Matthew 10:23-24)** The thing that you need to remember is that persecution followed Jesus. Jesus was not loved by everyone. Remember John chapter 1, verse 12 tells us, **“He came [to] His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as received him, to them [he gave] the**

power [the authority] to become the sons of God....” (John 1:11-12, KJV)

So you can expect to be rejected because Jesus was rejected. He goes on to say this, **“It is enough for the disciple that he become[s] like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign the member of his household!” (Matthew 10:25)** [They’ve accused Me of being the chief of demons. They have said of Me that I’m of Satan. And if they are going to say that to Me then they are going to say it to you.] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 10:25) You and I need to learn to filter the words that we hear. We need to consider the source of those words that come our way. So many times we’re just prone to hear whatever someone says and then to take it to heart and to believe it, but you are not to do that. Many of you have been hurt and wounded and bear those wounds because you have believed a lie, rather than the truth. Because your mother or your father, or your sister, or your brother, or your friend turned around and took that tongue of theirs and sliced you right down the middle. They used it to wound you. They used it to bring you down and you accepted those words and they were lies. They were lies and when you and I believe a lie, when we allow that lie to influence us, then it begins to eat away at our bones and we begin to take that lie and live in the light of it. And Jesus wants His disciples to understand that [if they said that to Me, and I’m the King of the Jews and I’m the Messiah and I’m the One that was expected, I’m the One that was sent, then you have to understand also, that they are going to say it to you. Why? Because you are a disciple.] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 10:25) A disciple is a follower. A disciple is a learner. A disciple is a student of another and they would find a teacher, a teacher whose life they admired. A teacher whose philosophy or whose words they thought were truth and so they would want to follow that teacher. They would want to learn from that teacher. And so when they became a disciple, a follower of a teacher, they would go where that teacher went. They would stay with that teacher. As a matter of fact the teacher, the discipler, was often the one that provided for that person. We have seen that

John had his disciples. Jesus has His disciples, those that are following, those that are learning. It was like an apprenticeship. It was like learning on the road or learning by the way. And what He wants them to understand is this that, **“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master.” (Matthew 10:24)** You are following Me, you see what is happening to Me and you can expect the same thing to happen to you. Now this is so important, Precious One, that you understand that. Because I truly believe that when you study the Word of God you are going to find out that discipleship is synonymous with salvation. I don’t believe that anyone can truly be saved, truly be born again from above, truly be a child of God without being a follower of Jesus Christ. And so what do we see here? We see He says, **“Therefore do not fear them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. [Whatever] I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim [on] the housetops.” (Matthew 10:26-27)** It is all going to be brought out in the open. It’s all going to be known for what it truly is. And then He makes this statement, **“Do not fear those who [can] kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him [fear Him] who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” (Matthew 10:28)** You are not to fear man. You are to fear God. God tells us that, **“The fear of man brings a snare....” (Proverbs 29:25a)** The fear of man is like a trap and you are about to walk into it. And listen all man can do is kill the body. That’s all he can do, but he cannot kill your soul. I remember reading about people in the holocaust, in fact, Elie Weisel wrote this--he is the one that wrote the book “Night,” he is the Nobel prize winner--and Elie Weisel said this, “You can do anything you want to me, but you cannot make me hate you. I will refuse to hate you.” You and I have a choice and that choice is that we are to not fear man because what they can do to you is temporal, but what God can do is eternal. [So you are not to fear man who can only kill the body, but not touch the soul.] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 10:28) You can guard your soul. You can keep your soul. You can

let people say what they want to say, do what they want to do, but it does not have to change you. You are only, only to fear God. He goes on to say, **“Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.” (Matthew 10:29)** These sparrows are just a cent, worth almost nothing, and [you buy two sparrows for a cent and yet I want you to know this: That God knows when a sparrow falls to the ground.”] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 10:29) God knows it all. And God has His eye on the sparrow. You’ve heard that song: “His eye is on the sparrow. I know He watches over me.” He goes on to say, **“But the very hairs of your head are...numbered.”(Matthew 10:30)** I know all about you. I know what you are going through. Beloved, I don’t know what pain you are enduring. I don’t know what you are going through. I don’t know what rejection you are experiencing, but I can tell you this, I’ve known rejection. I’ve experienced pain, but I can tell you this, Beloved, that Jesus has experienced the same thing and He is able to keep you. He is able to hold you in the midst of it all as long as you determine that you were the one who will not let your soul be affected by what those others do to you. Fear God, not men. We’ll talk about it more in just a minute.

PART TWO

I’m in the Galilee, Beloved, where Jesus commissioned His twelve. Where He told them what it would cost them if they became followers of Him. In Matthew chapter 10 in verse 32 He says, **“Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess...before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny...before My Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 10:32-33)** This is very important for you to stop and think about. When God calls us, He lays out the parameters. He tells us what is expected of us when He says, “If you are going to be My disciple,” then He lets us know exactly what it’s going to cost. And if you’re rejected by men and rejected by brothers and sisters and

mothers and fathers then you find it hard to confess Him before others because you know that you're rejected because you've aligned yourself with Jesus Christ. And so He wants them to understand, ["Now look you cannot be ashamed of Me. You must be willing to confess Me before men. You cannot hide the fact that you are My disciple. That you are a follower of Me."] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 10:32-33) **"...[If you] confess me before men, I will...confess [you] before [the] Father who is in heaven. But [if you deny] Me before men, I will...deny [you]...."** (Matthew 10:32-34) The lines are drawn and, Beloved, there is no compromise. This is the Lord speaking. This is the Son of God speaking. This is the Savior of the world speaking. [He is the way, He is the truth and He is the life.](PARAPHRASE, John 14:6) He is the way. And He is saying, "This is the way." He says in verse 34, **"Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth: I did not come to bring peace, but a sword."** (Matthew 10:34) So many of us think, "Okay, Jesus Christ came," and we sing, "Peace on earth, good will toward men," but really, what the angel said was, "Peace on earth and good will toward men with whom God is pleased." He did not say that He is coming right now to bring a reign of peace. No, He's not because when He steps in the world, when He came, when He was born of a virgin and then began His public ministry, He divided the people. He divided the righteous from the unrighteous. He divided those that were true followers of Jesus Christ, true followers of God from those who had a bogus relationship. And so He says, **"Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth: I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I came to set a man against his Father, and a daughter against mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and...man's enemies will be the members of his household."** (Matthew 10:34-36) Did you hear that? It's a very, very hard and difficult saying, **"...A man's enemies will be the members of his [own] household."** (Matthew 10:36) Following Jesus is a matter of an individual decision. A decision on a part of a person that they are going to recognize who Jesus Christ is and no matter what it costs them they are

going to follow, even if it costs you your family. He goes on to say, **“He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me....”**(Matthew 10:37) I’m in a very beautiful surrounding, right here in the Galilee, but I want you to know that life is not always as beautiful and as ideal as the situation around me, as the environment around me. Sometimes there is pain and sometimes there is hardness and sometimes there is difficulty and sometimes there are storms instead of sunny days. And He is making it very clear that we are to love Him supremely, absolutely love Him supremely above everyone else. It says, **“He who loves father...mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take [up] his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.”** (Matthew 10:37) “Followed,” “follow” is a key word in Matthew because Jesus steps into time and space, He declares who He is and then men have to make a decision. And He is saying, “I want you to know this: that you must love Me supremely, I am God. And you must follow me totally and completely. And even if it costs you your family this is what you must do.” If you are not willing to take your cross— what is the cross? They understood. They saw people crucified every single day in this land. Crucified because the Romans ruled over this people and that is the way they dealt with criminals. If you were a Roman citizen you could not be crucified, but if you were not, they could nail you to a cross any day, any time, any place as long as the wood was there. And this is what He is saying, **“...He who does not take [up] his cross....”** (Matthew 10:38) It’s an instrument of death. It’s one that when you are nailed to that cross you can’t look any way you want. You can’t turn around. You only look in the direction that the cross allows you to look in. It is an instrument of death and He is saying, **“...he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.”** (Matthew 10:38-39) Do you want life? He says, [“Then you lose your own life.”] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 10:39) You deny yourself. You take up

your cross. You follow me. **“He who receives you receives Me...,”**
(Matthew 10:40) [“I’m calling you to a cross and I’m telling you as I send you forth, You are My disciple, you are My follower. And when you go out and someone receives you, You and I are so closely identified that he is receiving Me. And I am so closely identified with my Father that those that receive you are receiving Me and those that receive Me are receiving the Father who sent Me.”] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 10:38-40) Because when you become a follower of Jesus Christ you enter into a whole new relationship. We see later in John chapter 17, it’s a relationship of oneness. **“That they may be one...,”** Jesus prays, **“...even as we are one.” (John 17:22, KJV)** He says, **“He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward; and he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man’s reward.” (Matthew 10:41)** In other words, here is a righteous man and you will receive him because he is righteous. He says, [“I want you to know there is a reward for those who receive righteous men.] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 10:41) And it goes on to say, **“And whoever in the name of a disciple gives...one of these little ones....”** There were children about, there were people about as He was teaching this, **“...Whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones...a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward.” (Matthew 10:42)** [I want you to know there is a cost for following Me, but there is also a reward and those who honor you because of Me then receive that reward.] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 10:41) Yes there is a cost to following Jesus, but I want to tell you something, the payoff is eternal and the payoff is heaven. It’s the Kingdom of Heaven.