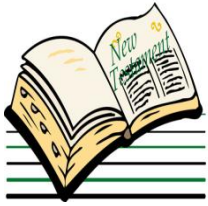


Sermon Notes



Title: "Lessons About Ministry and Kingdom Expansion, Part 3: Division"

Text: Matthew 10:34-11:1

Theme: A major aspect of Jesus' mission to this earth was division, not peace. Jesus brings a radical separation between those who follow Him and those who do not. Paradoxically, this is the route of peace.

I. The Gospel Brings _____ (10:34-39)

A. Jesus' Mission Brings _____ (34)

B. Division Will Affect _____
_____ (35-36)

C. The _____ Must Be to Christ
(37-39)

II. The Significance of _____ Christ's Messengers (10:40-42)

A. It Means Receiving _____ (40)

B. It Means Receiving the Gracious Reward of
_____ (41-42)

III. Conclusion: Jesus Resumes His Ministry (11:1)

IV. Applications

A. Jesus is the "_____ of _____," but His Kingdom of peace _____ with those who _____ the truth.

B. Any relationship that takes _____ over Christ calls into _____ a true _____ of Christ as _____.

C. Life in its _____ is gained when you are _____ to Christ.

Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group:

1. What does Jesus say He did and did not come to bring to the earth (v. 34)?
2. What would happen to some families as a result of Christ's coming to earth (vv. 35-36)?
3. What does Jesus say about His place of prominence in your life with respect to your loved ones (v. 37)?
4. What does Jesus say about His priority with respect to your own life (v. 38)?
5. What does "taking up [one's] cross" mean? What does it not mean (v. 38)?
6. How does Jesus say you find or discover real life (v. 39)?
7. What is the significance of welcoming and embracing the Apostles whom Jesus entrusted with the message of His Kingdom (v. 40)?
8. What is the significance of receiving any true messenger or minister that Christ sends (vv. 41-42)?
9. How does Jesus value even a seemingly small and insignificant gesture of kindness done to any follower of Christ (v. 42)?
10. Who are "these little ones" about whom Jesus speaks (v. 42)?
11. If Jesus and the Gospel are about peace, how is it that He brings division and conflict among people?
12. Have you ever experienced conflict with a close family member or friend because of the Gospel? What happened? How did you react?
13. What does the fact that the Gospel often results in division and conflict tell us about a purely pragmatic approach to truth (the idea that what works is true)?
14. When there is conflict and division because of the Gospel, should you be resigned that peace and harmony is unachievable?
15. If loving a parent or a child more than Christ means that one is not worthy of Him, does this mean that the Lord desires to split up and alienate families from one another? Do you think there is any significance to why Jesus does not include "husband" or "wife" in verse 37?
16. In the persecutions of the early church, many Christians were martyred for their allegiance to Christ rather than confessing Caesar as Lord. Some, however, denied Christ so they would not be tortured or killed. After the persecutions subsided many of these Christians sought to be readmitted into the fellowship of the Church. If you were a church leader at that time, how would you counsel such people? How would you counsel those who were faithful during persecution? How do Christ's words in 10:38 apply?
17. In the present culture there are people who insist that one's identity and worth are based on how one self-identifies according to gender, sexuality, race, or even creed. How, if at all, do Jesus' words in 10:39 bear on this?
18. How do we receive the Twelve Apostles of Jesus today? Jesus told us to beware of wolves in sheep's clothing (Matt. 7:15), so how do we avoid the danger of being fooled by those who claim to be representatives of Christ but are false?
19. What does our Lord's use of the phrase "these little ones" tell us about rank and degree in the Church?
20. How does the issue of "rewards" fit into the Gospel of grace?