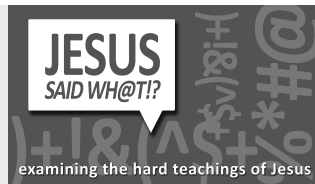


Faith in the Family

The Hard Sayings of Jesus - Part 3 Matt.. 10:34-39
Noah Largent 7/25/21



1. Did Jesus come to bring peace or sword ?

I love the honesty of the Bible! Just because you love Jesus doesn't mean that you'll get a life free of circumstantial or relational pain. Jesus was perfect and he got plenty of both. Jesus is telling the truth, the whole truth about reality of life. In this passage Jesus is reminding us that we should not be surprised that making Him our highest priority can be like a sword, bringing separation between family, friends and co-workers that don't share Him as their highest priority.

Matthew 10:34-39 *I have not come to bring peace but a sword! Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me... whoever does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.*

Luke 9:61-62 *another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but first let me say goodbye to my family."* ⁶² *Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."*

2. Division: Is it caused by Jesus or me?

When relationships experience friction or division it is wise to examine whether it is because of the priorities of Jesus in my life that naturally may not be celebrated by others, or was it simply my own questionable behavior? It is irresponsible to excuse my questionable behavior on the basis of Jesus' teaching about division in this passage.

1Peter 4:15 *If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.* ¹⁵ *If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler.* ¹⁶ *However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. (Also 1Peter 2:19-20)*

3. Faith in the Family (Jesus' and ours)

We must not fall into the trap of thinking that because we'll experience some relational division that we should only focus on a personal relationship with God. Nothing could be farther from what the Bible teaches! The Bible makes clear that loving God means we love others - it's one of the premier traits of His family! Our example of faithfulness to one another follows from Jesus's faithfulness to us.

Matthew 12:46-50 *...For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."*

Matthew 10:32 *Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven*

John 13:34-35 *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."* (See also: Ps. 133:1; Jn. 17:20-22; Rom. 14:19; Rom. 15:5; 1Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:3; 1Cor. 12:12&25; 2 Cor. 13:11; Phil.2:1-2; 1jn. 4:11-12)



Community Group Questions:

1. What did you hear? What hit home from the message? How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?
2. What practical things can we do to promote unity: *in our personal relationships and in the church?*

Notes:
