

FRIENDSHIP COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

Pastor Bobby D. Hamilton, Th.M.

Dedicated to Discipleship Series

Sermon Notes

Part 3

“Take your Licking and Keep on Ticking”

Matthew 10:34-38

Dave Burchett hit the nail on the head when he said “people today have relegated Jesus to a sort of nice guy, cool teacher status in our society today, but in reality, He was far edgier than that, Jesus was a total revolutionary.” I like that quote because when we think about a revolution our minds immediately shift to historical uprisings like the Revolutionary War of 1776, the Russian Revolution of 1917, or the Civil Rights Revolution under Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. of the 1950s and 1960s, but Jesus too was a Revolutionary leader who ushered in a new kingdom, an internal rather than external approach to God, a new status for women, a redemption that targeted all humanity, an approachability to the outcast and disenfranchised, a new standard of love, and an entire counter-culture lifestyle of forgiveness that previously demanded an eye for an eye, a kingdom where the first would be last and the last would be first. And because of His new agenda He knew that He and His disciples would always live under the cloud of rejection, retaliation, and even death!

In Matthew 10 Jesus lets His disciples know that following Him won't be a walk in the park. So, in verses 1-33, He tells them where to go, what to expect, what to do, and what He will do for them while they are being sent out as “sheep among wolves”. (Matthew 10:16) In verses 34-38, He doubles down and deals with the most intimate relationships in their lives, their families, and tells them how to handle it when opposition comes from those whom they loved the most.

I. Look out for a fight. (v.34-36)

Jesus starts with an absolutely startling announcement, not peace (Gr. eirene') but a sword. (Gr. machaira) Jesus is correcting the faulty assumption that an era of peace and tranquility has come as the Jewish tradition has anticipated when the Messiah arrived. (See Isaiah 9:5-7, Zechariah 9:9-10) Jesus wanted the disciples to fully know the meaning of His first coming. Truly the gospel is a gospel of peace with God, but because of sin, Satan, and our sinful nature this gospel will be rejected because His presence provokes hostility and rejection even among our most intimate unit on earth- the family.

The sword mentioned is a sword of separation within the family structure because of our commitment to Jesus Christ. (Gr. dichazo – cut, separate, cause to revolt)

Jesus is saying that there is no neutrality, No middle of the road choices. Being His disciple may cause divisions in your house because light and darkness cannot fellowship together. He is not telling the disciples to kick their families out, but He is

“A Place to Begin Again”

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preparing them to be kicked out by their families. (See 2 Cor. 6:14-15, 1 Peter 4:12-19)

II. **Lift Christ above your kinfolks (v. 37)**

In discussing love (Gr. phileo) father, mother, son, daughter, Jesus is not talking about an emotional intimacy but a preferential choice. Jesus knew that it is very tempting to compromise one's loyalties when it comes to the family, but He is demanding that total allegiance be given to Him above your biological family.

What makes this so radical is the fact that in Judaism, no human relationship is ever more important than the family relationship. Now Jesus is saying that when it comes to making choices, decisions, commitments, I must mean more than even your family.

In fact, in Matthew 10:21, Jesus predicted that there would come a day when their own family would turn against them because of their loyalty to Him. This sudden reversal not only happened back then, but it also is happening right now in many households. What about you? What suffering, rejection, or persecution have you had to experience because of your loyalty to Jesus Christ?

Christ must be first. (See Colossians 1:15-18)

III. **Let go of your grip on your life (v.38)**

"and he who does not take up his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me"

The disciples knew exactly what Jesus meant about "his cross". It meant, pain, shame and walk to execution amidst an antagonistic and jeering mob. It meant death! Jesus was letting them know that My way must also become your way.

It meant do die to your self-interest and your self-made plans. (See Galatians 2:20)

This seems so hard to comprehend for so many Christians because we focus on living not dying. We exercise, watch our calories, go to our annual checkups because we want to live not die. But Jesus is telling us that discipleship demands that we say no to the one person we have the hardest time saying no to- ourselves. He wants us to let go of our grip of things/people that we cling to in order to have a satisfying life.

Jesus is telling us that living- true life from the inside out- is only attained by dying.

The rich young ruler in Mark 10:17-22 wouldn't let go of his grip on his property, so he never got to live.

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What are you gripping today? Who are you gripping on to today?

Whatever your pain, whatever your problem, whatever is causing your panic attack...
this too shall pass (Romans 8:18) Keep on Ticking!