

FBC POWELL, 2-10-08 PM NOTES
"WHAT JESUS EXPECTS OF HIS FOLLOWERS"
MATTHEW 10:32-42
(#43 in Series, "Verse by Verse through Matthew")

Matthew 7:23 (NKJV) "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

I. The Courage to Confess Him (v. 32-33)

Titus 1:16a (NKJV) "They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him..."

Romans 10:10 (NKJV) "For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

II. A Supreme Loyalty (vv. 34-37)

Luke 2:14 (NKJV) "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

Luke 14:26 (NKJV) "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple."

"The parting with my wife and poor children hath often been to me in this place [jail], as the pulling of the flesh from my bones; and that not only because I am somewhat too fond of these great mercies, but also because I should have often brought to my mind the many hardships, miseries, and wants that my poor family was like to meet with, should I be taken from them, especially my poor blind child, who lay nearer my heart than all I have besides. O the thought of the hardship I thought my blind one might go under, would break up my heart to pieces...but yet, recalling my self, thought I, I must venture you all with God, though it goeth to the quick to leave you; O I saw in this condition, I was a man who was pulling down his house upon the head of his wife and children, yet thought I, I must do it, I must do it."

—John Bunyan

III. The Losing of Our Life (vv. 38-39)

Matthew 16:24 (NKJV) "Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.'"

Luke 9:23 (NKJV) "Then He said to *them* all, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross **daily**, and follow Me.'"

1 Corinthians 15:31b (NKJV) "...I die daily."

2 Corinthians 4:10 (NKJV) "Always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body."

John 12:24-25 (NKJV) "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life."

Acts 20:24 (NKJV) "But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God."

IV. A Life That Results in Reward (vv. 40-42)

John 8:19b (NKJV) "...You know neither Me nor My Father. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also."

OTHERS MAY, YOU CANNOT

If God has called you to be really like Jesus, He will draw you into a life of crucifixion and humility, and put upon you such demands of obedience, that you will not be able to measure yourself by other Christians; and in many ways He will seem to let other good people do things which He will never let you do.

Other Christians and ministers who seem very religious and useful, can push themselves, pull wires and work schemes to carry out their Christian goals, but these things you simply cannot do. Others may boast of their work or their writings of their success, but the Holy Spirit will not allow you to do any such thing, and if you ever try it, He will lead you into some deep mortification that will make you despise yourself and all your good works.

Others may be allowed to succeed in making money, but most likely God will keep you poor, because He wants you to have something far better than gold, namely, a helpless dependence on Him and the joy of seeing Him supply your needs day by day out of an unseen Treasury.

The Lord may let others be honored and keep you hidden and unappreciated because He wants to produce some choice, fragrant fruit for His coming glory, which can only be produced in the shade. He may let others do a work for him and get the credit for it, but He will make you work on and on without knowing how much you are doing: and then, to make your work still more precious, He may let others get the credit for the work which you have done, and thus make your reward ten times greater when Jesus comes.

The Holy Spirit will rebuke you for little words of deeds or even feelings, or for wasting your time, which other Christians never seem to be concerned about, but you must make up your mind that God is infinite Sovereign and He has a right to do whatever He pleases with His own. He may not explain to you a thousand things which puzzle your reason in the way He deals with you, but if you will just submit yourself to Him in all things, He will wrap you up in a jealous love and bestow upon you many blessings which come only to those who are very near to His heart.

Settle it, then, that He is to have the privilege of tying your tongue, or chaining your hand, or closing your eyes, in ways that He does not seem to use with others. Now, when you are so possessed with the living God that your secret heart becomes pleased and delighted with this peculiar, personal, private, jealous guardianship and management of the Holy Spirit over your life, then you will have entered the very vestibule of heaven itself.

—G. D. Watson 1845-1924