

5. Compare Matthew 10:34 to Matthew 5:9, and Ephesians 2:15,17. Can you explain the nature of the types of peace described in each passage?

Matthew 5: ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Ephesians 2: ¹¹ Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)— ¹² remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility. ¹⁵ by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

6. Thinking over Matthew 10:32-39, just how robust does our commitment to Jesus need to be?

7. How can you be publicly associated with Jesus in the world this week?

The Mission

“Being the Bad Guys” (Part 3)
Matthew 10:21-39

How Can We Stay Focused on Our Mission When Some People Hate Us or Hurt Us?

1. Match wits without making war. (10:16)
2. Take every opportunity to witness. (10:17-18)
3. Rely on the Holy Spirit. (10:19-20)
4. Stand firm and _____. (10:21-23a)

Acts 14:1-20; 2 Corinthians 11:23-33

5. Remember _____. (Matthew 10:23b-25)

- Remember that Jesus _____.
- Remember that Jesus _____.

Jesus reigns, so his suffering wasn’t the end of his _____...or yours.

6. Fear _____. (Matthew 10:26-33)

Fear is a multi-faceted and _____ emotion.

Fear can _____ your life, yet without fear, you’ll do harmful things.

Fearing God does mean respecting him, but it also means having a _____ fear of him.

“Discipleship (to borrow the famous dictum of Bill Shankly about football) is not a matter of life and death—it is much more serious than that.” (R.T. France)

Where is God leading you with your BLESS list this week?



7. War in _____. (Matthew 10:34-36)

Jesus's statement about the sword is neither about just war theory versus pacifism, nor can it be about how we carry out our _____, based on literally everything else Jesus says in the gospels.

The sword is an expected and unfortunate _____, and it's not his followers who will wield it (Matthew 26:51-52).

8. Love _____. (Matthew 10:37)

You love your family best when you love God _____.

God loves your family members more and _____ than you do..

9. Go for the _____. (Matthew 10:38-39)

"The message of God's kingship is one which always has and always will lead to violent response from those who are threatened by it." (R.T. France)

"To agree to follow Jesus is to sign away all rights to a quiet life of self-determination." (R.T. France)

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Read Matthew 10:21-39. To be worthy of Jesus, we have to understand his worth. How would you describe Jesus's worth?
3. Re-read Matthew 10:26-31. Thinking about fear as a multi-faceted and complex emotion, and following Jesus's logic in this passage, how would you explain what Jesus is saying here in a talk to middle school students?
4. In light of Jesus's worth, how do you understand what Jesus says about loving him most in verses 34-39?