

Chained to Jesus: the cost of discipleship ***Matthew 10:24-42***

If there is to be an accurate history written of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, it will have to give prominence to the fact that the highest ethical teaching the world has ever been given was rejected by the intellectual leaders of humanity in favor of teachings that opened the way to forms of human behavior more degraded than any the world had seen to that point.

Dallas Willard: Renovation of the Heart

Preparing for the trial ahead, v.24-33

- Prepare to be slandered for the sake of Jesus name.
 - *A disciple is not above his teacher, v.24.* In other words, do not hide from the name “Christian.” _____
 - *If they call the head of the house Beelzebub, they call you the same, v.25.* You shall be slandered. _____
 - Yet the truth will ultimately be revealed, v.26. _____
(*Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil, Isaiah 5:20*)
- Trust the Holy Spirit in you.
 - He shall speak in the stillness, v.27. _____
 - Do not fear the threats of men, but rather fear the one with ultimate power, v.28. _____

A warning to those concerned about their good name and reputation: don't go any further until you assess the value of that which you may lose. Many turn back when they weigh the cost, and instead choose mediocrity as the highest they can achieve.

Trust and risk, v.29-33

- God keeps track of us even down to the minutest detail.
 - He makes account of the least of his creatures, v.29. _____
- *Even the hairs of your head are accounted for, v.30.* _____

- One of the great unheeded warnings.
 - *If you confess me before men I will confess you before my father. But, If you deny me I will deny you.* We should tremble at the possibility. _____

An even more frightening proclamation, v.34-39.

*Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth: **I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.** Matt. 10:34*

***I have come to cast fire upon the earth;** and how I wish it were kindled. Luke 12:49*

- How does this stack up against your picture of the Christian life?

For my sake you shall be an enemy in your own household, and if you return to them and forsake me you are not worthy of me, v.36-37

- Ready for that? _____

He who does not take up his cross(stauros; gr.) and follow after me is not worthy of me, v.38-39.

- Though we are forgiven, and redeemed from our past, what does Jesus mean by this declaration? _____
- Can your past, however tortured, have some value to God? _____

But in this world, those who receive you and are compassionate to you shall be blessed, v.40-42.

- Like an island of relief in a sea of trial and torture. _____
- There will always be those who wait for the truth sent by God through us. _____

We are beyond the point where mere talk, no matter how sound, can make an impression. Demonstration is required. We must live what we talk, even in places where we cannot talk what we live.

Dallas Willard