

“No More Soft Christianity”

Matthew 10

Sermon Series: “This Is Us”

Introduction: In Matthew 10:1-4, Matthew records Jesus calling the 12 disciples (of course, one of them was a false disciple) to Himself, empowering them, and sending them out. This text, which serves as something of an ordination or commissioning sermon, is very challenging. It reveals characteristics of fully devoted followers of Jesus. It also exposes false versions of Christianity such as the Prosperity Gospel and our soft, Americanized version of Christianity.

Main Idea: Really following Jesus is costly and difficult instead of soft and easy (Matthew 7:13-14).

1. Followers of Jesus are called to go instead of stay (v. 5-8).

This is the consistent message of the New Testament. They were initially called to go to Israel, but we are now called to go to the whole world and proclaim the message of the Kingdom. Our default mode is to stay in our comfort zone, but we are commanded to look for the lost sheep.

2. Followers of Jesus are called to faith instead of material security (v. 8-15). Jesus gave some different instructions in Luke 22:35-36 so these are specific instructions for a particular occasion, but there are lasting principles. We are to trust and obey. We are to seek God’s kingdom first (Matthew 6:33). We have been given grace so we are to give graciously and generously. We are to be owned by the mission instead of by things. Our security is in Jesus instead of material things. Jesus is our ultimate treasure. Following Jesus is about giving instead of getting. The gospel is to be offered free of charge. God’s people should support God’s mission and ministers. Ministers are to trust God for their provision.

3. Followers of Jesus are called to suffering instead of safety (v. 16-33). Jesus describes danger, persecution, betrayal, hatred, and even murder as distinct possibilities for us to experience, and large numbers of Christians do experience this kind of suffering. We are in a war, and there are no participation trophies. Life and death, heaven and hell, are at stake. Kingdom is battling against kingdom. Our job is not to get the world to like us but to proclaim a Kingdom that is not of this world and call people to repent and trust the King. When facing opposition of this type, we are to:

- A. Be wise as serpents and innocent as doves (v. 16).**
- B. Trust the Holy Spirit for the words to speak (v. 17-20).**
- C. Endure (v. 21-23).**
- D. Remember the example of Jesus (v. 24-25).**
- E. Fear God instead of man (v. 26-31).**
- F. Do not be ashamed of Jesus but confess Him before**

others (v. 32-33).

4. Followers of Jesus are called to put Jesus first instead of all others (v. 34-39). We put Jesus ahead of self and family because Jesus is our Treasure. We die to self and to idolatry. **Remember that we love others best when we love Jesus most.**

Conclusion-Reasons To Follow Jesus:

- 1. We are following the example of Jesus (v. 24-25).**
- 2. Truth prevails (v. 26).**
- 3. The reality of eternity and the judgement of God (v. 28).**
- 4. God is in control (v. 29) so life only works when we line ourselves up with Him.**
- 5. We are highly valued (v. 29-31).**
- 6. So we won’t be denied before the Father (v. 32-33).**
- 7. Jesus is worthy! He is our Treasure (v. 38-39)!**
- 8. Only way to really have life (v. 39).**
- 9. You can’t create your own path to God (v. 40-41).**
- 10. Rewards (v. 40-42).**

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