

SERMON OUTLINE

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

'Behold your King' - 16

Matthew 10 v34 - 42

Starting Point (quote) - 'Jesus is the most divisive person in the world'
See v34 - 36.

Context - Jesus sending out the disciples (v5a) - and sending us out as well.

Key Point (v32 - 33) - our speaking out about Jesus will not only have consequences in heaven, this will have consequences on earth.

1. WE WILL FEEL THE PAIN OF THE SWORD

Yes - Jesus unites! See Eph 2 v14 - 16. But he divides as well! See v34 - 36. The word "against" means 'to cut in two' - conversion to Jesus Christ can cause family rifts!

What Jesus says sets the background to one of His hugely misunderstood statements. See v37 & Lk 14 v26. Key Point - Commitment and loyalty to Jesus Christ is such a serious, and profound, and far-reaching matter that nothing, but nothing (not even family) can ever endanger it. Key Phrase - 'Is not worthy of me.....'

*'Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.'*

Isaac Watts

2. WE WILL FACE THE THREAT OF DEATH

See v38. Key Point - 2000 years ago taking up (carrying) the cross meant that you were going to die. Whilst there is that aspect of dying daily to self (as Jesus spoke of) - in other words (and in the context

of this passage) being prepared, in our witnessing to the Lord Jesus Christ to be scorned, and laughed at, and abused, and maybe even ostracised - are we prepared to lay hold of what Jesus says here literally (seriously) in that the actual physical death He speaks of might one day come to us!

Note - the comfort and the encouragement! See v39.

*'He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain
that which he cannot lose'*

Jim Elliot

**3. WE WILL KNOW THE SUPPORT OF OUR BROTHERS AND
SISTERS IN CHRIST - AND (MOST IMPORTANTLY)
THE COMPANY OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**

See v40 - 42 & 25 v34 - 40.