>>>>>>> Matthew – Lesson 27 <<<<<<<

1) We began last time by saying that when we look at 9:35 through 10:42, we see that Matthew records what is basically another series of teachings.
2) This time the teachings are focusing on the mission on which he is sending his disciples.
3) I need to make a comment here about the sending out in twos.
   a) Scripture does not tell us directly that Jesus sends these men out by twos.
   b) The fact that Matthew lists the disciples in pairs at the start of the passage.
   c) Also, we can make a strong inference that Jesus would not send them out alone at this point in their discipleship.
   d) Both of these make a strong indication that that was the case.
   e) We also have the example of the sending out of the 72 in Luke where we are explicitly told they were sent out in pairs.
   f) So, to be clear, we **do not have** a scripture which says for this mission the disciples were sent out in pairs.

4) Last time we covered the instructions of the mission they were going on and also, the far-reaching teachings regarding what the future will hold.
   a) In that case, we can see the events of Acts unfolding.
5) Now, Jesus continues his preparations with some encouragements but some more hard things as well …

Matthew 10:26–33 (ESV)
Have No Fear

26 "So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. **27** What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. **28** And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. **29** Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. **30** But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. **31** Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. **32** So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, **33** but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven."

6) The "them" Jesus begins with I think is a collection of all those mentioned so far, the generic "men," governors and kings, and Gentiles.
7) One theme that rings through these verses is "no fear!"
8) Do not fear "them" – do not fear those who can even kill you. WHY?
   a) First, the divine plan is that everything that Jesus has and will teach them will be told regardless.
   b) Second, the one whose is in charge of this plan is God – when he is in charge you can definitely not fear anything.

c) Third, do not fear because fear leads to denial and denial of Christ leads to him denying you – not what they or we want.

1) In this next passage, Jesus really lays out what can be a real surprise if one is not careful to listen to the heart of what he is saying …

Matthew 10:34–39 (ESV)
Not Peace, but a Sword

34 "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. 36 And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. 37 Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

2) The obvious thrust of this passage is not that Jesus is a warrior with a sword here to draw blood.
3) Instead, he is referring to the potential costs of having unwavering and uncompromising faith in him.
4) In the first days for the Church and indeed, even prior to that, making the choice to follow Jesus as the Messiah could cause conflict within families.
   a) As he says clearly son against father, daughter against mother, even husband against wife.
5) Verse 37 is one of those misused and abused verses because, it is so many times taken out of this context and used to force something that I don't think Jesus ever meant.

37 Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

   a) What is obvious in context is that Jesus is saying one cannot compromise.
   b) It is not a matter of you truly loving your parents or other family member any less when they take a stand against your allegiance to Christ.
   c) Instead, it is a matter of not letting that love and the desire not to hurt or alienate them cause you to deny Christ even to them.
      i) That does in a manner of speaking say we must love Christ more than the one who is against us but we must not put this in a negative connotation.
      ii) Again, Jesus is NOT saying that we have to stop loving our parents – only that we must choose to be loyal to him even if it causes a rift.
6) His very next statement speaks too that tremendous sacrifice which may be required.

38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

7) These hard decisions are a definite part of cross bearing.

8) If we consider our "life" as part of a peaceful family and choose that over faith and loyalty to our Lord we will lose our life.

9) Again, and obviously hard sayings!

1) Well, we are through the hard parts now we get to hear the short and sweet, good parts …

Matthew 10:40–42 (ESV)

Rewards

40 "Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. 41 The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. 42 And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.

2) What must be assumed here in what Jesus is saying is that we have persevered through all of what he has been telling us so far.

3) We are then what I like call ***"radical disciples"*** – not crazy radical but dedicated and understanding disciples.

   a) We get it! We understand what it means to love Jesus and are willing to endure everything to spend our eternity with him.

4) I made the statement back when we embarked on this section of scripture – 9:35 thru 10:42 that these teachings are focusing on the mission on which he is sending his disciples.

   a) Even reaching out into a future of which they really have no idea of at this point.

5) I also said that the overarching lessons he is teaching reach even down to us as well.

6) To make another connection that gives a perspective to this – the Sermon on the Mount is Jesus laying out through the fulfillment of the Law and all that entails the **"how we should live as radical disciples."**

   a) These teachings are laying out what to **expect** when we **do and what we must do to persevere and gain the reward he promises.**

Do you feel like a radical disciple?