

## Introduction:

*Matthew 10:32-39.* Jesus selects the 12 and sends them out preaching the word to the lost sheep of Israel. One sign of things to come is when Jesus tells them to shake the dust off their feet of those houses and cities, which will not receive them. He tells them they will be persecuted and hated by their own families. At this point He encourages them by telling them of God watching over the sparrows and they are worth more than sparrows. It is at this point we want to examine the teaching of Jesus.

### **I. WE MUST BE WILLING TO CONFESS CHRIST BEFORE MEN**

#### **A. We confess Christ with our heart, *Romans 10.9***

1. God confessed Jesus as being His Son, *Matthew 17.5*
2. The Ethiopian Eunuch confessed Christ as the Son of God, *Acts 8.37*

#### **B. We must also confess Christ with our lives, this is the point Christ is making here.**

1. They were already following Christ before He sent them out to preach, now they had to serve Christ before men.

2. If we confess Christ, He will confess us as being disciples of His.
3. No confession means no heaven.

## II. **WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE SPIRITUAL CONFLICT,** **MATTHEW 10.34**

### A. This seems to contradict our concept of Christ.

1. He is called the Prince of Peace, *Isaiah 9.6*
2. He came to establish peace between man and God, *Romans 5.1*
3. We are told to be peacemakers, *Matthew 5.9*
4. To live peaceably with all men if possible, *Romans 12.18*

### B. Key is "peace on this earth".

1. Christ did not come to do a lot of things.
  - a. He did not come to accumulate wealth, *Matthew 8.20*
  - b. He did not come to establish a physical kingdom, *John 6.15*
  - c. Before Pilate He said His kingdom was not of this world, *John 18.36*
  - d. This world, the ways of this world are against the ways of God, *John 15.19*

**C. Jesus came to overcome the ways of this world and the prince of this world, *John 12.31; 14.30; 16.11***

1. Jesus battle with Satan was nothing less than war.
2. Battle lines today are drawn up between those who follow Jesus and those who are of this world, *John 15.20*

**III. WE MUST PUT CHRIST ABOVE EVERY ONE ELSE.**  
***MATTHEW 10.35-37***

**A. Place me above your families.**

1. *Luke 14.26* to love Christ and hate one's mother and father.
  - a. What about God's command to love mother and father? *Ephesians 6.1-3*
  - b. Hate here means to love less, literally Christ is telling them to love their families less than Christ.
  - c. Why would this be necessary?
2. Families were divided over Christ.
3. Friendships ended.
4. Religious traditions were disregarded.
5. One's family can present a stumbling block.

**IV. WE MUST PLACE CHRIST BEFORE OURSELF, *MATTHEW 10.38-39***

**A. Before your desires and wishes (Christ did, *Matthew 26.39*)**

1. Before our VERY LIVES (Christ did, *John 10.15*)
2. Before our families (Christ did, *Matthew 12.48-49*)
3. Before our traditions, *Matthew 15,2-3, 6*

**B. Person that does not place Christ first will have the same reward as the person who does not confess Christ.**

**C. The person that places Christ first will have the same rewards as the person that confesses Christ.**

1. Ultimately they are the same thing.