

Matthew 10:26-42

38 "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

Recap:

- Persecution of Christ's disciples in the near future and during the tribulation period.

26 "Therefore do not fear them (your persecutors). For there is nothing covered (this was probably a proverbial statement among the Jews) that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.

- By it our Saviour meant, that their innocence, their principles, and their integrity, though then the world might not acknowledge them, in due time would be revealed; or the universe would finally do them justice.
- They were, then, to be willing to be unknown, despised, persecuted, for a time, with the assurance that their true characters should yet be understood, and their sufferings appreciated.

27 "Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops.

- Whatever I tell you in secret, privately, share it with as many as you can. Preach the good news for all to hear.

28 "And do not fear (phobeo in Greek), (be afraid, terrified, scared away by) those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear (terrified, awestruck, amazed, revere) Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

- Your persecutors may go as far as killing your body, but that's how far they can go. God on the other hand can destroy both. It's Him you should pay more attention to.

29 "Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin?"

- Are not 2 sparrows of very low value?

And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will.

- Nothing dies without the Father's will. He is in control of all things.

30 "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered."

- He knows and He cares about everything concerning you. Every minute or small detail about you is important to Him.

31 "Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows."

- He cares about you more than any other living creature that He has created.
- You are more valuable to Him than anything else on this planet.
- He cares about your health, education, food, clothing, future spouse, children, shelter, employment, etc.

32 "Therefore (having painted the above picture for you) whoever confesses (declares, agrees with, says the same things I have said, to another) Me before men, him I will also confess (acknowledge) before My Father who is in heaven."

- If you don't deny me, if you declare my word on earth then I will recognise and acknowledge you before my father, on judgement day, as one of my true disciples who has stood for me and with me till the end.

33 "But whoever denies (disowns, rejects) Me before men, him I will also deny (disown, reject) before My Father who is in heaven.

- Whoever does not get saved, whoever does not live for me, whoever rejects my teachings and my commandments while still alive on earth, I will cast away and will not allow into heaven.

34 "Do not think that I came to bring peace (Eirene in Greek, unity, harmony, security, safety, prosperity) on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword (a weapon of war, a straight sword for thrusting).

- I have not come to make people feel all safe happy and secure on this earth. I have not come to give you all the riches you desire. That is not my purpose. I have come to expose and destroy those that are against me. ***Hebrews 4:11 Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. 12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.***
- I have come to put all these hypocrites, Pharisees and scribes to shame with my word.

35 "For I have come to 'set (turn) a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law';

- My word of truth will divide families. There will be a division between those who believe and those that do not believe.

- The righteous shall be set apart from the unrighteous even in very close family units.

36 "and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.'

- Your own family members will turn against you. They will be your true enemies because of Me and my word. **Micah 7:6**
For son dishonours father, Daughter rises against her mother, Daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; A man's enemies are the men of his own household.

37 "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

- You cannot love your father, mother, son or daughter more than you love me. **Why? Romans 3:9** ***What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin.***
10 ***As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one;***
11 ***There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.***

12 ***They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."***

13 ***"Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit"; "The poison of asps is under their lips";***

14 ***"Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness."***

15 ***"Their feet are swift to shed blood;***

16 ***Destruction and misery are in their ways;***

17 ***And the way of peace they have not known."***

18 ***"There is no fear of God before their eyes."***

- ***Matthew 22:37 Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.***

38 "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

- He who does acknowledge that he is a sinner is not worthy of me.
- He who is not repentant is not worthy of me.
- He who does not confess all his sins is not worthy of me.
- He who is not ready to identify with my suffering and death is not worthy of me.

Matthew 10:39 "He who finds his life will lose it,

- He who is too consumed, taken up, over mindful, fearful, over protective of his life will lose it.

And he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

- And he who gives up, surrenders, sacrifices his life for my sake will find it, have everlasting life with rewards from heaven.

[A reward for hospitality.](#)

40 "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.

- Whoever accepts you as my disciple and the good news you carry accepts me. And when you receive me you receive the Father who says in ***Revelations 22:13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.***

41 "He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward.

- "A prophet" is one who speaks for another. The disciples served as prophets when they announced Jesus' message. Jesus Himself was a prophet since He spoke for God.

- What is a prophet's reward? Either a reward from the prophet himself, who shall interpret the Scriptures to him, preach the Gospel to him, lead him more fully into the truths of it, and guide him to the true, and more clear and distinct sense of the sacred writings; which is an ample reward for his kind entertainment of him: or else, that reward which God has appointed, prepared, and promised, to them who receive his prophets; and which indeed is no other, than what the prophets themselves shall receive, even the reward of the inheritance, the kingdom prepared from the foundation of the world, a reward of grace, and not of debt; since both, in their way, serve the Lord Christ.

And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

- The disciples were righteous men who represented another righteous man, Jesus. What is a righteous man's reward?
Proverbs 21:21 ¶ He who follows righteousness and mercy Finds life, righteousness and honour.
Romans 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.
10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." "Righteousness is our God given justification whereby we stand in the presence of God without any sense of sin, guilt or condemnation. It is to be right before God.

42 "And whoever gives one of these little ones (the persecuted disciples who have remained faithful to the Lord to the end) only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple (on behalf of a follower of Jesus), assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward."

- In other words, no single act of kindness towards a follower of Jesus will go unrewarded from God.

Conclusion

38 "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

- We must acknowledge that we are sinners in need of a saviour. **Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**
- We must confess of all our sins. **1 john 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
- We must repent of all our sins. **Acts 3:19 "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,**
- He who is not ready to identify with my suffering and death is not worthy of me. **1 peter 4:13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.**