

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ The 1st Mission Trip, Part 4

Last time...Jesus continued with instruction for these 1st mission teams, us, Israel during DoL

Jesus matter-of-factly told His disciples what lies ahead: they would

- be sheep in the midst of wolves (sheep-eaters)
- know persecution (Gov't and Religion...people in positions of power)
- be hated by all men, including family

Jesus exhorted us to "Fear not" to comfort us and to help us keep proper perspective

1. Do not fear the Truth
2. What is the worst that could happen?
3. Know Whose you are

This time...Jesus concludes His instruction for His 12 disciples, us, and Israel during DoL with the seriousness of the mission (eternity is at stake!) as characterized in binary terms:

- confess or deny
- peace vs sword
- Jesus or family
- find or lose

We are in Matt 10

v32-33 confess...deny:

Impossible to not understand what Jesus is saying...and there is no middle ground

Do you want Jesus Christ to confess you before God the Father?

If yes, you **MUST** confess Him before men!

Do you want Jesus Christ to deny you before God the Father?

If not, you **MUST NOT** deny Him before men!

Confess	believe/do	and	speaking/ witness
	John 15:23		Love Me, keep My words
	Acts 1:8		receive power to be My witnesses
	Rom 1:16-17		I am not ashamed of the Gospel
	Rev 3:5		overcome, confess his name before Father
Deny	not believe/do	and	do not speak/witness
	John 12:37		many miracles, don't believe the evidence
	1 John 2:22		that Jesus is the Christ, deny Father and Son
			(Muslim, Mormon, JW, Hindu, Buddhist)
	believe but don't confess...for fear of man		
	John 12:42-43		chief rulers believed, not confess, praise

The Lord sends His ambassadors/witnesses/followers/disciples to testify of Him...

His name, His message, His work, His Kingdom

Yet every ambassador/witness has a choice to make once he/she has been sent:

- to faithfully speak, to confess/agree that Jesus is
 - the Christ, the Son of the Living God
 - the Messiah/Savior of the world
 - The King of all the earth
 - The Lord of all
 - I AM
- to deny/contradict Who Jesus is OR to fearfully remain silent about

Our witness is like that of a watchman in Ezk 33:

The watchman blows the trumpet to warn the people of impending danger

The people who hear the trumpet must choose

- hear the warning and heed it...believe:
and be delivered from harm/death
- hear the warning and do not heed it...do not believe:
and die with no one to blame but themselves

The watchman does not blow the trumpet...because is lukewarm, fearful,
in his/her heart does not believe the impending danger

- the people die...in their own sins
(the failure/fault of another does not absolve them of their
own faults and guilt)
- the watchman is held accountable for the death of the others
(had the responsibility to warn them but did not)

A watchman's silence is a very grave sin...pun intended

Silence is a form of denial of Jesus Christ

In our sphere of influence, our responsibility is that of a watchman

What is the alarm we are to sound?

The Gospel, Good News, hope, reconciliation at Cross

Not

- our opinions or the doctrines of man
- a compromised (polluted/diluted) message
- a warm-fuzzy, ear-tickling deception

We are responsible to contend for the faith (Jude 3)

We are not responsible for the results, the choices of the people we have
lovingly warned

We are responsible for our silence...accountable if we remain silent

As born-again, Bible-believing Christians, we do not have the right to
remain silent...our silence can/will be used against us in the
Court of God

As Jesus' ambassadors speak of Him, Who sent them,
Jesus will speak to the Father, Who sent Him and of Whom He faithfully testified

Either "He/She is with Me, a very good friend of Mine and Yours!"
Or "I don't know who this is...he/she says he/she is My friend, but he/she
is no friend of Mine....or Yours."

What do we need to contend and not remain silent?
The Holy Spirit upon us...the baptism of Jesus (Acts 2)

v34 peace...sword:

John 1:29
John 12:32 lifted up, will draw all to me

Is every person saved and going to heaven because Jesus died on the Cross for
their sins?

No

Jesus' sacrifice is sufficient for every person to be reconciled to God
That is God's desire/choice (2 Peter 3:9, 1 Tim 2:4)
But each individual must choose to believe/trust Him, His payment

Those who choose to believe will be saved

Rom 10:9 confess, believe, shall be saved
Rom 10:13 whosoever call on name of the Lord shall be saved
Rom 8:1
John 14:27 Peace I leave, My peace I give
John 3:16-18a

Those who choose to not believe will not be saved but remain condemned
John 3:18b

The point of division between salvation and condemnation is Jesus Christ

Rom 5:1 being justified by faith we have peace with God thru
Matt 5:9 speaks of peace with God, not peace among men
v22

Know Jesus, know peace
No Jesus, no peace

Jesus did not come to unify the world that hates Him

He came to separate His own from the world

"and there was a division among the people because of Him"
John 7:43, 9:16, 10:19

Jesus came to separate a people unto Himself (Jew and Gentile),
a people separate from those in the world

The sword that divides men...even families: The Word of God (John 1:1)

Heb 4:12

Eph 6:17

v35-37 man...father...daughter...mother...foes...household:

Given v34, the reality of v21 revisited...and v32-33 tested

As Eli was...1 Sam 2:29

The division Jesus makes in the world...the line He draws/cuts...
runs right thru families

- husband and wife
- parents and child
- siblings

The non-negotiable Pre-eminence of the Lord Jesus Christ

Micah 7:5-7 Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide:
keep the doors of thy mouth from her that lies in thy
bosom. For the son dishonours the father, the daughter
rises up against her mother, the daughter in law against her
mother in law; a man's enemies *are* the men of his own
house. Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for
the God of my salvation: my God will hear me.

John 4:44 a prophet has no honor in his own country/hometown/home

Thus, where Jesus is the point of division, every disciple of Jesus must choose:

A. peace with God (adoption into the family of God)

or

B. peace with family (of the world)

Those who want peace with God on His peace terms (1 Cor 2:2, Eph 2:1-9)
are separated from those who

- live their life on their terms (despise Word of God)
- want peace with God but on their terms (works, Matt 7:21-23)

The nature of God is love...the nature of unregenerate man is death

God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked

The Father desires that no man perish but receive the gift of repentance and
come to Life in His Son

He has done everything the Almighty God could possibly do –
defeat our greatest enemy: death

He has paid the very highest of prices for peace/reconciliation with man –
the sinless blood of His own Son

Love is His motive...for sending His Son, then for sending us

He is absolutely, categorically worthy of our love...first and foremost, preeminent
(in fact, we cannot love others if we don't love Him...Rom 13:10b)

Therefore, and quite rightly, if we love

- Self
- father
- mother
- spouse
- child
- grandchild
- the world

more than we love Jesus Christ, we are not worthy of Him (His Love and Life)

To love anyone/thing more than Jesus is to deny Jesus before men
Love for Jesus must be supreme...for He is Supreme, He alone is worthy
Even above "our" ministry (Rev 2:4)

We love Him by

- trusting Him, obeying Him
John 15:14
Luke 6:46
John 15:5
Phil 4:13

- loving and serving each other
John 13:33

- worshipping Him
Rev 4:10-11

The most important event on the weekly calendar for every
disciple/follower of Jesus Christ is to come on Sunday
morning and worship Him!

When circumstances are under our control and we have a choice,
nothing is more important!

Acts 2:42
Heb 10:22-25

v38-39 not his cross...not worthy...find...lose:

How seriously did Jesus take His mission, how much does Jesus love us and why is He worthy of our total devotion?

He suffered, died, was buried, and rose again...

Is 53:3-11 a man of sorrows, despised, wounded for our sins,
oppressed, afflicted, the Father's offering for our sin

Dan 9:26a executed, but not for His sin

1 Peter 1:18-21 a lamb without blemish or spot (sin)

1 John 3:8b to destroy the works of the devil, the power of death

Given v24, how can we be worthy of His love and life by searching for a Cross-less "shortcut"? (false gospels)

Matt 16:24

Cross

- place of suffering and shame
- denial of Self for the good of another...following Jesus

When we refuse our cross, we find/keep our life (will, way)
but end up losing it (2nd death)

John 12:25 he that loves his life (so attached to it that he cannot let go of it)
shall lose it and he that hates his life (loves less than the glory
which shall be revealed in us) in this world shall keep it unto life
eternal

When we lose our life (self-seeking will and way at the expense of others),
we find it (in Him, His Self-less will/way/life)

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but
Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the
flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me,
and gave himself for me.

John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he
that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of
God abideth on him

To confess Jesus (v32) is to deny the flesh

To deny Jesus (v33) is to confess the flesh

Confessing Jesus will be fiercely opposed...by Self and all men, even loved ones
Count the cost of being Jesus' disciple

Being a disciple of Jesus Christ involves the sacrifice of Self

v40-42 receiveth...reward:

To receive/believe comes with a reward!

Those who receive/believe us receive/believe the One Who sent us...
those who receive/believe the Son receive/believe the Father

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

John 6:28-29

Those who don't receive us don't receive Jesus or the Father

Past	1 Sam 8:7
Present	1 John 5:11-13
Future	John 5:43-47

Choices:

- Whose life do I want: my vapor or His eternal?
- Since Jesus laid His life down for me, I am willing to lay down my life for Him...finding His life in so doing?
- Am I willing to bear the cost of being Jesus' disciple...to share in the sufferings of this present time to then receive the glory to be revealed?
- Will I succumb to peer pressure to remain silent or to the love of God and speak of Jesus Christ?
- Will I care more about what people or the Lord think about me?
- Do I want to be liked by everyone, at the expense of being Jesus' friend?
- Do I want everyone to just be able to get along and keep the peace more than I want everyone to have peace with God?
- Am I uncomfortable/afraid of talking to family about Jesus Christ?
- Am I uncomfortable/afraid of talking to strangers about Jesus Christ?
(Do I really believe Matt 28:20b, Heb 13:5b, and 2 Tim 1:7?)
- Am I willing to be stretched in my walk with the Lord?
The value of a rubber band

The success of the mission is faithfulness...results from the mission belong to God
We cannot be faithful to God without the power of God (v1)

Application

Be instant in season and out of season (2 Tim 4:2)
Be ready always to give an answer to every man (1 Peter 3:15)
Be willing to stand alone...but never alone or defenseless!
Do not try to be politically correct...because Jesus Christ never is!

Be like a rubber band – stretched!