

³² “Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. ³³ But everyone who denies me here on earth, I will also deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴ “Don’t imagine that I came to bring peace to the earth! I came not to bring peace, but a sword.

³⁵ ‘I have come to set a man against his father,
a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.

³⁶ Your enemies will be right in your own household!’

³⁷ “If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine.

³⁸ If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. ³⁹ If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.

⁴⁰ “Anyone who receives you receives me, and anyone who receives me receives the Father who sent me. ⁴¹ If you receive a prophet as one who speaks for God, you will be given the same reward as a prophet. And if you receive righteous people because of their righteousness, you will be given a reward like theirs. ⁴² And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded.”

Cold Water: Harvesters, Part 4

When we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it’s all nonsense. 1 Corinthians 1:23

Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.” Matthew 16:24

“Be as shrewd as snakes and harmless as doves.”

Matthew 10:16

“Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven.” (v. 32)

1. ACKNOWLEDGING JESUS BEGINS WITH _____.

“Don’t imagine that I came to bring peace to the earth! I came not to bring peace, but a sword. (v. 34)

The word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. Hebrews 4:12

If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine. (v. 37)

2. ALL OTHER ALLEGIANCES ARE _____ JESUS.

If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it. (vv. 38–39)

Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?” Matthew 16:24–26

3. RARELY IS FOLLOWING JESUS _____.

If you receive a prophet as one who speaks for God, you will be given the same reward as a prophet. (v. 41)

As he arrived at the gates of the village, he saw a widow gathering sticks, and he asked her, “Would you please bring me a little water in a cup?” She did as Elijah said, and she and Elijah and her family continued to eat for many days. There was always enough flour and olive oil left in the containers, just as the LORD had promised through Elijah. 1 Kings 17:10,15–16

4. JESUS BLESSES PEOPLE _____ FOLLOW HIM.

- 1) Forgive - Let Go / Reconcile
 - 2) Repeat offense - still need mercy
 - 3) No apology - still doing harm?
- Lesson - extreme, life & death, spectrum

Never see God - but all agree: circumstances + judging
God sees both sides clearly, fairly - Don't get in his way
If ppl hurt you, subject to judgment - don't entice them!

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