

INTERMEDIATE SUNDAY SCHOOL
STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW
Text: Matthew 10
Subject: SENDING OUT THE APOSTLES

21 MAY 2023

³⁴ “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.

³⁵ For 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 and ‘a man’s enemies will be those 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.

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

³⁹ He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

Matthew 10:34-39

A SEEMINGLY CONTRADICTIONARY WORD

1. The Lord Jesus is called “The Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6)

- a) It is more than just the usual polite greeting commonly uttered
- b) His title reflects the gift that He can offer
- c) Peace is taken too much for granted

2. He promised Peace to His disciples John 16:33

- a) Peace amidst turmoil in the world
- b) Peace of heart and mind though one may be hated
- c) Peace that is distinctive from the Lord

3. Here, He warns of “a sword” Matthew 10:34

- a) It is a word of warning
- b) It speaks of hurt
- c) It speaks of warfare

THE SWORD OF DIVISION

1. Almost inevitable conflict
 - a) Family conflict
 - b) Enemies in the household
2. This is an unfortunate consequence
 - a) When people reject the Lord
 - b) When sin prevails
 - c) When hostility is allowed free rein

HUMAN LOVE

1. For family
 - a) Father/ mother
 - b) It can be very deep and strong
2. For the Lord Jesus
 - a) It is to surpass love for even one's parents
 - b) Love for the Lord to this extent is to walk worthy of the Lord's love

COPING WITH HOSTILITY

1. The Challenge of Real Faith
 - a) To take up the Cross
 - b) To follow the Lord
 - c) To walk worthy is to be able to do all these things
 - i) Faithfully
 - ii) Courageously
 - iii) Steadfastly
2. The Danger of not being able to follow faithfully

- a) We may love our life too much
- b) We seek only earthly comforts and joy
- c) We can “lose it”

THE CHALLENGE TO WALK WORTHY

¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

² with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,

³ endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:1-3

1. A word of challenge from the Apostle Paul to the Ephesians

- a) To know that there is a noble and high calling from God
- b) To rise up to the challenge of walking worthy of our high calling

2. This is our Challenge today too

- a) To appreciate our high calling
- b) To walk worthy of that calling
 - i) To love the Lord
 - ii) To take up our cross
 - iii) To deny self
 - iv) To follow Him fully