

- I. I came not to bring peace, but a sword (v. 34)
 - A. He bids us to remember that his gospel will not cause peace and agreement wherever it comes (Luke 11:23)
 - B. The gospel may cause estrangement in families and in other relationships (vs: 35-37).

Application: Mark 10:29, 30 “Jesus said, Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the Gospel, who will not receive a hundred-fold now in this time...and in the age to come eternal life.”

- 1. One is resolved to keep his sins and another desires to give them up (Gal. 6:8-10).
- 2. The Gospel is not to blame, but the heart of man (1 John 2:15-17).
- C. Though the ultimate end of the Gospel is peace with God, the immediate result is frequently conflicts and hardships that shape us, as the Spirit battles with the flesh. (John 14:26, 27). “For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.” (Rom. 8: 5,6).
- D. Though he is called the Prince of Peace (Is. 9:6), Christ will have no believers deluded into thinking that he calls us to a life devoid of conflict. Be a peacemaker in the conflict and you will be called a Son of God. (Matt. 5: 8, 9).

Application: What examples come to mind of family, employment relationships or others, where the Gospel believer is embattled with non-believers.

- II. True Christians will recognize troubles in this world and the reality that we must “carry a cross.”
 - A. We must be content to part with life in worldly terms.
 - B. We must submit to loss of man’s favor, endure hardships and deny ourselves in many worldly things (Gal. 1:10; Col. 3:2, 3, 23, 24)
 - C. In verse 38, Jesus mentions the cross for the first time to his disciples, implying two things:
 - 1. He asks for full surrender and commitment from them, even to physical death and to include this in their own proclamation to others.
 - 2. He is making a personal message to them to prepare for his violent and degrading death on the cross (Matt. 16:21-23).

Application: Daily we die to ourselves. We no longer live for sin but for our God who redeems us, loves us and changes us. Christians recognize that their lives are not their own. Everything

belongs to the Lord, who created us and re-creates us. “If anyone would come after me let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me”. Luke 9:23.

III. Service does to those who work in his cause is observed and rewarded of God. “Whoever receives me, receives him who sent me.” Matthew 10:40

A. Christ lives in his people. They come in his name as his ambassadors (2 Cor. 5:20).

Therefore, how they are treated is how he is treated (Matt. 25:35-40; Luke 9:48).

B. “He that gives a believer so little as a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple shall in no wise lose his reward.” (Matt. 10:42)

1. The eyes of the Great Master are ever upon those who labor for him.

2. He observes who is kind to them, as Lydia was to Paul in Acts 16:11-15.

3. He observes those who throw difficulties their way as Diotrephes did to John in 3 John 9-11.

4. The Lord Jesus never forgets any of his people. He will say to many in the resurrection morning “I was hungered and you gave me meat: I was thirsty and you gave me drink.” Matt. 25:35-46.

Application: “Truly, I say to you, as you did to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.” Matt. 25:40 What a monumental incentive it is to live in the Spirit of this truth. Let us not pass over any occasion we have to show tender mercy to another person for we are showing mercy to our Lord as well. When we act as Jesus would act, we confirm his work in our own hearts and our Christ-likeness grows. Ryle says, “This is to have the mind of Christ!”

Module 30

I. John the Baptist sends a message to Jesus from prison.

A. “Art thou He that should come, or do we look for another?” (vs. 11:3)

B. John sends disciples to hear and see for themselves the miracles of Jesus that they may cleave to Christ, the one with an unchangeable priesthood. (Heb. 7:24)

II. Jesus gives high testimony to the character of John the Baptist

Final Thought: The same tongue which bore testimony to John in prison, will bear testimony to all His people at the last day: He will say, “Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” Matt. 25:34