

**“Fear, Division – Real Life”**

**Matthew 10v27-39**

**Scripture Ref: 2 Cor 5:9-11; Dan 12:2-3; Ex 20:12; Mark 10:19; 1 Tim 5:8; Eph 6:1-4**

**1. Outline**

- a. **The “B” Team**
- b. **Obstacles bring Opportunity**
- c. **Fear, Division, and LIFE – two things that we might experience are fear and division. These are things we might have to persevere through in order to obtain the thing we want - LIFE**
- d. **Our Reward**

***Last week:***

24 "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. 25 It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they call those of his household!

26 Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. 27 "Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops.

***Fear***

2. **Franklin D Rosevelt stated in his first inaugural address: “*We have nothing to fear but fear itself.*”**
  - a. **Well, that is not exactly true – there is one who should be feared:**

28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

3. **There are a lot of things that we fear: Death, losing our job, some people are afraid of the dark, or spiders.**
  - a. **Sometimes the Christian will experience fear that can keep us from walking out our calling from the Lord – FEAR OF MAN.**
  - b. **We get afraid that if we are too “out there” with our faith, too bold in our witness, that people might think we are weird.**
  - c. **Or worse, we might lose something – maybe our boss gets on our case, or wants to fire us, or that guy you really like will drop you.**
  - d. **Guess what – IT’S TRUE. Being a witness for Christ may well cost you something.**
4. **But Jesus here is encouraging us that we need not fear man...**

*Therefore do not fear them... do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

- a. **So should we be like “Oh no, God is going to destroy my soul in hell!!”**
  - b. **No, Jesus is pointing out that people will come, and people will go, someone may mean to you, or your boss may fire you,**
  - c. **In the time of the early church, and in some countries today, they may even take your life,**
  - d. **But they cannot touch your eternal soul. That has been sealed by God Almighty, and God is forever! Heaven and Hell are the sole domain of God.**
- 5. Approximately nine years ago I was sitting with my boss in a restaurant, and we were discussing my future. “What direction would like to go, Clay?”**
- a. **I had held that discussion many times before, it was one of those moments when you put your best foot forward, and hopefully set yourself up for the next promotion. (perfectly timed, just the right mix of initiative and humility...)**
  - b. **But the problem was that by that point God had burdened me to go into ministry, and I had to make a decision – what would I tell my boss?**
  - c. **I told him the truth – and I might as well have painted a target on my back! Sure enough, when the time came to decide who was laid off – guess who went?**
- 6. But here is the thing – God looks out for His own...**

29 Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. 30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

- 7. If you look at the span of history, the value of life has been diminished to the point to where I think we have lost our way.**
- a. **A child that could be born and survive, if that child is still in the womb could become a piece of tissue that can simply be removed.**
  - b. **That value system is slowly being extended into all of our society – who really cares about you? Does government?**
  - c. **I'll tell you who cares about you – God cares about you!**
- 8. It's funny when you are young you can become enamored with the world and your friends, and many young people run from their family as fast as they can to find “freedom.”**

- a. **But when the storms come, they find that the only people that are there for them are family – the only ones who really love them are family.**
- b. **How sad that some never realize, or come to terms with this truth, and they suffer and go through hard times alone.**

**9. How much more so is God there for us?**

32 "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. 33 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

**10. This is another of those scriptures that can be confusing – on the surface seeming like if you ever deny God, or fail to confess God before someone, you'll be rejected by God.**

- a. **But that interpretation doesn't hold when we look at the Apostle Peter, who denied Christ three times on the night before the crucifixion!**
- b. **I believe Jesus is referring to the Bema seat, or the time when Christians will be rewarded for their faithfulness and their work in the Kingdom:**

**2 Cor 5:9-11**

*Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.*

**11. The prophet Daniel stated it brilliantly...**

**Dan 12:2-3**

*2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt. 3 Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.*

- a. **Daniel, whose prophecies concerning the Babylonian, the Persian, Greek, and Roman Empires came to pass with exact accuracy over a 1500 year period after his death – in other words a man we should listen to...**
- b. **He is telling us that there will come a day where God will reward His saints.**
- c. **And on that day those who have been wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens**

- i. **What is wisdom? Wisdom is fear of the Lord and living for Him**
  - ii. **Wisdom is making a choice to live invest in the future – our spiritual and eternal future.**
- d. **Those who lead man to righteousness – those who witness for the Lord – will shine like the stars!**

### **Division**

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.'

**12. Its one thing to say "Jesus is Lord," to actually surrender to His will and walk with Him is a total different level of involvement.**

- a. **Like saying that breakfast of bacon and eggs: The chicken was involved in that meal, but the pig was fully committed!**
- b. **The moment we make a decision that we will surrender to Jesus and follow Him, we are in a war.**
- c. **We will experience conflict with the world**

**13. We can escape that conflict if we compromise and go along with the world, but then we will be in conflict with God and His word.**

- a. **The stimulus bill – those who compromised – sold out your children and their children to a lifetime of debt.**
- b. **The fiscal conservatives who compromised and lent their support went along with the current leaders, but now they are in conflict with their own values and principles.**

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.

**14. This might seem a little hard-core – but we need to understand that Jesus is not saying we should hate or disregard our family. That would be in conflict with scripture:**

*Ex 20:12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.*

*Mark 10:19 You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Do not defraud,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'"*

*1 Tim 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

**Eph 6:1-4**

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: 3 "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

**15. What Jesus is saying is that our relationship to Him must be higher than any other relationship – our love for Him must be greater than any other relationship.**

- a. I tell my kids – marry someone who loves God even more than they love you. If they love God, when the hard times come in the relationship, and they will come, they won't bail on you because they will honor their commitment to God.

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

**16. Carrying the cross doesn't mean putting a sticker on your car or wearing a cross on your neck**

- a. It means that we will follow God no matter what the cost
- b. Jesus went to the cross – gave the ultimate price – in order to redeem us and atone for our sins.
- c. Carrying the cross for Jesus meant going to His death – giving up His life for another.
- d. Carrying the cross for us means going to our death – the death of "my" wants, "my" agenda, "my" dreams.
- e. And you might think "that sounds crazy, give up what I want?"
- f. It does sound crazy, but it is the only way to find real life...

**Real Life**

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

**17. You ever hear someone say "Man, I'm losing it"? The reason they are losing it is because they are living for themselves, and when you live for yourself, you find your life slowly slipping away.**

- a. I am thinking of three people right this moment, people I have known for years, even decades, that are saying "*man, I have lost it, I don't know what happened, but it's all falling down around me.*"
- b. But in reality it's no mystery what happened to their lives. The people who were closest to them warned them over and over: "*You are choosing to live for yourself, and there will be a price to pay*"

- c. **Granted there were circumstances and difficult situations in their lives, things that needed attention**
  - d. **But instead of taking those things to the Lord, they instead made the decision - *"To heck with it, I am going to live for me."***
- 18. And the result is – you lose your life. No, you don't die physically (although that is a possibility),**
- a. **but you lose your *life* – the things in your life that make your life worth living...**
  - b. **Family, relationships, integrity, reputation, joy, peace**
  - c. **Worst of all – you become like Adam and Eve in the garden;**
    - i. **Running from God, carrying guilt and shame, trying to cover up your sin.**
  - d. **Why do you think such a large percentage of the population take some kind of medication – from anti-depressants to self-medicating through alcohol or drugs?**
  - e. **Because people are miserable and want to escape their miserable lives.**
- 19. If you want to be miserable, turn inward and live for yourself (you'll have lots of company).**
- a. **But if you want to have life – life worth living – turn to the author of life – Jesus Christ.**
  - b. **Surrender your life to Him, live for Him, and you will find life – life here on this earth, and life eternal!**

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