

Title: RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST, MATTHEW 10:24-39
(Chatham, NJ; 06/22/14, AM) [Pc – Exegesis]

Theme: Jesus discusses some of the things that disciples will experience because they follow him.

Purpose: To encourage us not be fear those who disagree with us and who may even persecute us and lie about us.

Introduction:

1. Our Christian faith is founded on a relationship with Christ.
2. In Matthew 10 Jesus discusses some of the realities of that relationship.
3. Humility comes first: a disciple is not above his teacher.
4. The disciple will endure the same things because of that relationship.
5. We should not be surprised that people malign us because of our association with Christ; Jesus is a threat to their evil ways, so they call us evil.
6. Yet these difficulties are overcome by Christ's assurances.

I. Don't Fear Them, 26-28

A. Christ's words

1. All will be revealed and made known
2. Say in the light, 27
3. Proclaim on the rooftops, 27
4. The truths that humanity tries to hide from will be out there for all to see
5. Don't be embarrassed by his words
6. God's truth will not come back to him without being effective.

B. Don't fear them

1. Don't fear those who can kill the body but not the soul, 28
2. This has an ominous ring to it – they can kill the body (which they are doing in many Islamic countries)
3. But they can't kill the soul – earthly existence is just the beginning of eternity
4. Fear God, who can kill the body and the soul, 28
5. "The people can hurt us temporarily; God can harm us permanently."

C. What is worth more?

1. God knows even when a single sparrow falls to the ground
2. Yet you are worth more than many sparrows, 31
3. God knows the number of hairs on your head
4. Has any one of you taken the time to count your hairs?
5. Psalm 139:1-6 suggests the same level of intimacy
6. Be confident in God's care for you

II. Stand Up for Christ

A. Acknowledge him

1. Acknowledge me, I'll acknowledge you, says Christ
2. Peter's inability to do this was a grievous breach of their friendship and trust
3. Deny me and I'll deny you
4. Our relationship with Christ must be reciprocal
5. Denying Christ severs our connection to his grace.

B. The world uses numerous intimidation tactics to get us to betray the relationship

1. Name-calling and mockery: one of the oldest and cheapest tricks in the books is to call people names and to make fun of them (theology by sitcom)

2. Peer pressure – CEO of Yahoo forced to resign because he had given money to support the marriage amendment in California
3. Intolerance and lies
 - Truth about the St. Patrick's parade (which you've probably not heard): gays were allowed to march, just not carry banner proclaiming their gay pride; Catholic League asked to march in the gay pride parade and carry banners proclaiming pride about being straight were not allowed in that parade
 - "Republican Congressman Says Women 'Desperately Looking For A Husband'" read a headline about Republican, Tim Huelskamp.
 - What he said with context: "I wanna close with this, with a message to every man in America, every man in this crowd, every husband in America. Your children need you. Your woman, your wife, she needs you. It's time that you become a real man and stand up for those that need you. Love your family, love your wife, love your children because they desperately need you. They're desperately looking for a husband. They're desperately looking for a father. Be a real man of God, because this is about you. Marriage is about you, and your wife, and your children."
4. Blame you for their sins: Muslims sexually harassed (and worse) women when Morsi was president and said it was their own fault because they didn't support the Muslim Brotherhood; terrorists say that if you don't give in to their demands, they will kill people and it will be your fault (commonly known as extortion)

III. Christianity Creates Conflict

- A. Earth needs to be conquered
 1. Should Christians be silent about these lies and injustices
 2. Christianity stands directly in the path of these things, in fact, in the path of all unrighteousness
 3. Should we be surprised that conflict results when we point out the truth?
 4. In Revelation 19:15 the rider on a white horse (Jesus leading the army of God) slays the nation with the sword that comes from his mouth
- B. Human relationships are endangered
 1. When family relationships are threatened, it indicates that something is "rotten in Denmark."
 2. Don't blame God; blame humanity for ignoring him and his ways.

Conclusion:

1. Relationship with Jesus leads to the cross, 38
2. We gain our lives when we lose them for his sake, 39.
3. The transformation of our behavior is affected in this life.
4. What we gain is greater than anything the world can offer.
5. Do not be afraid; fear God and keep his commandments; acknowledge him and his words.
6. Stand with Christ as you would any good friend.