

DIVINE REALITIES PART TWO

jkroberts_us@yahoo.com
www.pacolethillsbaptist.org

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Matthew 10:21-42

1. The twelve disciples were about to begin a new phase of their learning process.
2. Jesus was instructing them prior to sending them out to minister in various cities and villages.
3. Last week we saw that:
 - a. Jesus is the source of all the authority, power, and resources we need to carry out the ministry He wants us to accomplish.
 - b. Having been blessed we are to be a blessing.
 - c. Following Jesus requires both wisdom and winsomeness.
4. This morning we are going to look at three other realities that we need to understand if we are going to serve the Lord successfully.
 - a. Following Jesus calls for endurance.
 - b. Following Jesus calls for total trust.
 - c. Following Jesus requires that we love Him supremely.
5. It is important to notice that Jesus was totally honest when dealing with both the lost and the saved.

NOTE: Many teachers and preachers do not proclaim the “whole purpose (counsel, plan) of God,” like the Apostle Paul did. In Acts 20:25-27 he told the Ephesian church leaders, ““And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face. 26 "Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. 27 "For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.”

6. In 2 Corinthians Paul made two definitive statements related to his approach to preaching and teaching.

a. 2 Corinthians 2:14-17

But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. 15 For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; 16 to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life. And who is adequate for these things? 17 **For we are not like many, peddling the word of God, but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God.**

b. 2 Corinthians 4:1-2

Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart, 2 but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

I. Following Jesus calls for endurance.

- A. Jesus stated, “You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.” 22
- B. We need to understand that when we embrace Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior we are still in the world, but we are no longer of the world.
- C. Therefore conflict with this world, and this world system, is unavoidable.

D. Notice that Jesus said we would be hated by all on account of His name (because we identify unapologetically with Him).

E. In what is referred to as the Sermon on the Plain Jesus warned, "Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for their fathers used to treat the false prophets in the same way." (Luke 6:26)

F. Paul wrote to Timothy, "Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, 11 persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium and at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! **12 Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.**" 2 Timothy 3:10-12

G. According to Jesus one of the marks of a true Christian is endurance.

1. "It is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved." 22

2. "Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. 10 "At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. 11 "Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many.

12 "Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. 13 **"But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved."** (Matthew 24:9-13)

II. Following Jesus calls for total trust.

A. In sending out the twelve Jesus told them to take nothing with them.

NOTE: Later Jesus modified these instructions. (Luke 22:35-38)

B. At this point Jesus wanted His disciples to learn that He could and would provide for all of all their needs.

C. Jesus instructed them:

1. To avoid persecution when possible. 23

2. To expect to be treated as He was. 24-25

3. To share with others what was revealed to them. 26-27

4. To not be afraid of those who could only kill the body. 28

5. To trust that God was totally aware of their circumstances. 29-30

6. To have confidence in the fact that God values them. 31

7. To confess Him before men. 32-33

NOTE: It is one thing to publicly profess Christ in church by being baptized, but it is another thing to live for Him in such a way that the world knows where we stand.

III. Following Jesus requires that we love Him supremely.

A. In Luke 14:26 we read these words that were spoken emphatically by Jesus, "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple."

B. Jesus stated that He did not come to bring peace on the earth, rather He came to be God's Dividing Line.

C. Those who identify with Him become one with God and with each other.

D. The population of the world can be divided into two groups: those who love and confess Jesus Christ and those who do not.

E. Sometimes following Jesus will cause conflict between us and those who are nearest and dearest to us.

F. If we do not love Christ supremely we will not be able to follow Him fully because we will always be conflicted.

APPLICATION

1. As followers of Jesus Christ much will be asked of us, but He will be our sufficiency and strength.
2. He will enable us to persevere regardless of the opposition and difficulties we may face.
3. We need to trust Him totally and love Him supremely.
4. Let us also enable and encourage those who are our brothers and sisters in Christ.
5. Finally, let all who know us know for certain that, first and foremost, we are going to obey our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ whether they like it or not.