

Matthew 10.16-11.1

When our Sharing goes South

Nothing more EXCITING for PREACHER Moments CONNECT w/ church  
WIND of Holy Spirit in your Sails! Cell Phones Turned Off, No Loud Snoring

I remember COUPLE Years ago when that Happened to ME!

Happened in Every MESSAGE from MASTER Preacher Lord Jesus Christ

One Sermon worked really WELL for HIM we Call the BEATITUDES

Words of BLESSINGS – Description of HAPPY Disciples in His KINGDOM

Matthew gathered Jesus' GREATEST HITS Sermons – Put this at Beginning

First Sermon of FIVE in Matthew – INTRODUCING Call to DISCIPLESHIP

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

KEY Moment in SERMON is ENDING – Like LANDING an AIRPLANE

Never Hear PILOT Say – Great Flight for 4 hrs, Small Problem at End: Crashed!

NO! Only thing People REMEMBER – or TALK About - that Plane Crashed!

So Jesus SOARS thru this GREAT SERMON – Crowds LOVE these WORDS

Then Lines Up for LANDING – RUNWAY is in SIGHT – WHEELS Down...

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Matthew 5.2-11

WHAT!! That does NOT make me FEEL GOOD, those are NOT Happy Words!  
 By STANDARDS of Modern Feel-Good Faith, Jesus CRASH LANDED Sermon  
 2<sup>nd</sup> of Matthew's 5 Sermons...

| Matthew      | Sermon Theme       | Ending Verse  |
|--------------|--------------------|---|
| 5.1 – 7.29   | Kingdom has Come   | 7.28 And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching  |
| 10.1 - 42    | Kingdom Mission    | 11:1 When Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in their cities.                   |
| 13.1 - 52    | Kingdom Parables   | 13.53 And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there   |
| 18.1 - 35    | Kingdom and Church | 19.1 Now when Jesus had finished these sayings, he went away from Galilee and entered the region of Judea                                   |
| 24.3 – 25.46 | Kingdom Judgment   | 26.1 When Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said..."the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified" |

ANOTHER Great Sermon by LORD JESUS CHRIST, Get's back UP on Horse  
 v. 7 And proclaim as you go, saying, *'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'*

Then TIME for LANDING – Lines Up starts FINAL DESCENT...

v. 38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

1<sup>st</sup> Mention of CROSS by Matthew – Look who is Hanging from it? Disciples!!

Hearers Understood – TAKE UP Cross!! – Being FORCED to SHOULDER

Instrument of your Execution – pass JEERING Mob – as Condemned Criminal

Endure SLOW, AGONIZING, DEATH in EXHAUSTED STRANGULATION

It is often preached in churches today that God can change your life – God can help you find yourself...God can...help you be a success in this world...They'll buy your book and watch your TV show. But if you preach what Jesus said and what the apostles preached – that Jesus is the only way to God because he is from God and therefore we must have allegiance to him above even our closest family members...Preach the gospel of the kingdom and what happens? Exactly what Jesus said would happen – persecution!  
 Douglas Sean O'Donnell

Matthew 10 OVERVIEW of MISSION of Church > FIRST to FINAL Century  
 BEGINS with 12 Apostles / ENDS with “these little ones” – you & me Christian  
 Begins GALILEE, ENDS: GLOBAL Church, M >> Everywhere to Everywhere  
 TONIGHT > Manila – LAUSANNE Global Diaspora Forum – 253 Million

### 1. Worthy Disciple – Endures Death

vs. 12,13 As you enter the house, greet it. And *if the house is worthy*, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.

WORTHY Person – NOT that they are GOOD – NOT deserving Salvation

Wise Enough to WELCOME Messengers of Salvation – Gift of Grace in Christ

Now Learn SHADOW of Cross looms Over the WORTHY Disciple –

vs. 37-39 Whoever loves father or mother more than me is *not worthy of me*, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is *not worthy of me*. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is *not worthy of me*. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

#### a. Defenseless before Predators

v. 16 “Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves...”

PICTURE of POWERLESSNESS > SHEEP have NO DEFENSES

GRUESOME Image – Bloody Pieces, of Shredded Animal

Jesus appears SADISTIC > SENDING Helpless Sheep amidst PREDATORS

PERSECUTION and PROCLAMATION are INSEPARABLE

Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted  
 2 Timothy 3.12

MOST if Not ALL – 12 APOSTLES - & Many Others > KILLED for Jesus

Whether we DIE from SWORD or IN our SLEEP > Jesus demands our LIFE

We as CHURCH of Jesus – Brothers and Sisters around Globe – under Attack

## 1) Religious Attack

v. 17 Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues

WOLVES are Described as MEN > Even RELIGIOUS Leaders in Church

LOCAL Synagogue PLACE where FLOGGING of Disobedient Administered

You thought it was SCARY to come HERE and have to FACE ME!

Synagogue scourgings...a strap of calf leather with interwoven thongs, brought against the condemned person's back 26 times and breast 13 times...stripped the condemned person, binding his (or her!) hands to a pillar. Craig Keener

SAUL of Tarsus KNEW BOTH ENDS of the WHIP – he GAVE & RECEIVED

Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one.  
2 Corinthians 11.24

Reformers killed by Catholics / Baptists killed by Reformers / Sad History

Jesus: “Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God” John 16.2

## 2) Political Attack

v. 18 and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles.

Camera PULLS BACK – TIME of Gospel Mission ADVANCES...

Jesus told APOSTLES Avoid Gentile territory: “to the lost sheep of Israel”

Church will carry GOSPEL beyond BORDERS of Palestine

LANDS where OTHER RULERS in CHARGE – GENTILE Lands

PUNISHMENT and SUFFERING – Even More FEARFUL & TERRIBLE

At LEAST Law of Moses had ELEMENT of MERCY blended with JUSTICE

*Odiūm humani generis* “hatred of the human race”

Nero’s Charge against Roman Christians

Alleged: Christians HATE Everyone // OR Everyone HATES Christians!

Jesus: “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you”

John 15.18,19

### 3) Family Attack

v. 36 And a person's enemies will be those of his own household.

vs. 21,22 Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, and you will be hated by all for my name's sake.

Shocking Words, esp to us here Far From Home and Loving Families

POINT NOT that We STOP LOVING our FAMILY: Parents, Children, Siblings

5<sup>th</sup> Comm BINDING > Honor your Father & Mother – NEVER STOPS

1<sup>st</sup> 4 Commands > GREATER HONOR > NO OTHER god before Jesus Christ

FAMILY Pain WORSE than by RELIGIOUS or ROMAN Leaders

This kind of PAIN gets UNDER YOUR SKIN > Deep into HEART & SOUL

v. 35 For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.

JEWISH Young Couples often LIVED with PARENTS – In-Law references

Sometimes IN-LAWS Turn Into OUT-LAWS

Some Bible Teachers claim Jesus speaks ONLY of Future Tribulation

Tell that to Christians who meet ISIS, Boko Haram, Al-Shabab

Christians Burned Alive – Beheaded – watch their Children be Crucified

20<sup>th</sup> C MORE People killed for Jesus – Martyred – than previous 19 C combined  
 Like POND that has WARM Spots and COLD Spots – Persecution VARIES

## b. Divine Protection

Persecution NOT from Political or Sociological Factors – BECAUSE of Jesus

v. 16 I am sending you out

v. 18 dragged before governors and kings for my sake

v. 22 you will be hated by all for my name's sake

v. 24 A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master.

If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. 1 Peter 4.14-16

Discipleship is not a matter of life and death – it is much more serious than that.

v. 22 But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

You will be SAVED in the END even though YOU MAY be EXECUTED

PARADOX of POWER of Jesus / Upside-down Kingdom / OXYMORONS

DYING He Lives/ By SUFFERING We're SAVED/ Suffering spreads Gospel

The chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. Matthew 27.41,42

Follow man who could NOT SAVE Himself, He could ONLY Save the WORLD

## 2. Wise Disciple – Exercises Discernment

v. 16 so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

SERPENT = Cunning & Shrewd / BALANCED by HARMLESS DOVE

There is a line marked out for us between two extremes, but a line that requires great judgment to define. To avoid persecution, by holding our tongues and keeping our religion only to ourselves... To court persecution, and thrust our religion upon every one we meet, without regard to place and time... J.C. Ryle

### a. Faithful to Jesus Word

vs. 19,20 When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

Sermon on Mount – Do not be ANXIOUS about CARES of this WORLD

THIS Sermon – Do not be ANXIOUS when you are CURSED by this WORLD

Do NOT WORRY about what to SAY when CAUGHT by Surprise by CRITICS

The CHURCH in TROUBLE was the Church that TESTIFIED!

To take this assurance as an excuse for lazy preachers, insisting that all Christian utterance must be spontaneous and unprepared, is to take it seriously out of context...disciples have a resource beyond their own intellectual or rhetorical powers. That resource is “the Spirit of your Father speaking in you” R.T. France

MESSENGERS of Jesus

Must listen to Jesus - Cannot speak for Jesus until Jesus has first spoken to You

Must Faithfully speak Only Word of Jesus – Not our Thoughts or Imaginations

Must KNOW Word of Jesus recorded in Bible > Very Word of God Written

Outstanding Leader of English Reformation - Hugh Latimer

Preaching before King Henry VIII – Henry was NO Friend of Reformation

Latimer knew was about to say something KING Henry would NOT Like

As he Preached Latimer spoke aloud to himself

“Latimer! Latimer! Be careful what you say. The king is here.”

Then: “Latimer! Latimer! Be careful what you say. The King of kings is here.”

vs. 26,27 “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops.

Flatroof Palestine House: Place of Prayer, Rest & Great Platform for Preaching  
Truth will Triumph – Final Day Persecutors will be Punished / Faithful Revealed

b. Fearful of what should make us Afraid – His Power extends beyond Grave

v. 28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

QUESTION of Who/What to FEAR leads to Radical Choice of LOYALTY

MAN can send you to the GRAVE – Sadly, Sometimes an EARLY GRAVE

God will RAISE Us from the Grave and can PUNISH for ETERNITY

Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; The body they may kill:  
God’s truth abideth still; His kingdom is forever.

Martin Luther “A Mighty Fortress is Our God”

c. Firmly Secure in His Sovereign Grip

v. 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.

FEAR of God is Balanced by TRUST in God

NOT Promise we WILL Not Die – Will Not Happen Outside of Father’s Plan

vs. 30,31 But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

NOTHING will happen to Follower of Jesus that is NOT DESIGNED by God

He has DESIGNED it for HIS GLORY and OUR GOOD

Does disaster come to a city, unless the LORD has done it? Amos 3.6

AMOS cuts thru all SECONDARY Causes and see Sovereign HAND of God

The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble. Proverbs 16.4

Sermon on MOUNT – Personal AUTHORITY of Jesus “But I say unto You!”

This SERMON – PERSONAL ANGER Against Jesus > SUFFER for HIM

God’s PURPOSE in Persecution is the FURTHER Spread of the GOSPEL

At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me...But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. 2 Timothy 4.16

### 3. Welcome Disciple – Enjoys true Delight

#### a. Secure in the Son of Man

v. 23 When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

Sometimes people RUN AWAY from Confrontation AND from CHRIST

Sometimes it is RIGHT to RUN to DIE ANOTHER DAY

Like NEWLY Converted Apostle Paul escaped Over Damascus CITY Wall

Great DIFFERENCE between FLIGHT of Faith and FORSAKING the FAITH

By FAITH we TRUST that Jesus is SON OF MAN – REIGN has BEGUN...

behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed. Daniel 7.13,14

There is nothing in the imagery of Daniel to suggest a coming *to earth*, as Christian interpretation has traditionally found in these passages; he *comes* in the clouds of heaven *to God*... “the coming of the Son of Man” is not a description of a particular historical event but evocative language to depict his eventual vindication and sovereign authority. R.T. France

**SAME PROMISE of Daniel 7 applied to DIFFERENT Stages of Jesus Ministry:**

Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.” Matthew 16.28

...all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. Matthew 24.30

Jesus: “I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.” Matthew 26.64

We need to keep moving – Apostles Never reached all Cities of Israel

we will not get to all the world’s cities in our day

but we should get on with the Great Commission anyway

that Jesus will FIND us FAITHFUL when He COMES

## b. Reward of the Righteous

vs. 41,42 The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”

As one TREATS God’s PROPHET – So they TREAT GOD

Rejecting a DISCIPLE is to REJECT the ONE they FOLLOW

MT wrote Embryonic Church – Before COMPLETE NT – Living Prophets

Even MOST Simple Hospitality to God’s Servants seen by God’s Son

And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’ Matthew 25.40

CUP in 1<sup>st</sup> C Palestine CURVED Bottom – Must be Passed from Hand to Hand  
From Hand of HUMBLE BELIEVER to HONORED, Faithful Servant of JESUS

Spiritual Rewards > Descending Progression >>.

1<sup>st</sup> One who receives Jesus > Receives the One who Sent Him

2<sup>nd</sup> One who receives Jesus' Prophets - because they speak the truth about  
Jesus—will have Spiritual Reward >> the Prophet will Lead him to Jesus

3<sup>rd</sup> One the Righteous - because they're Righteous - will be Righteous

Finally, One who receives even Least of Christ's Disciples, Rewarded Same Way

MESSIAH'S Rule is to bring PEACE – Jesus HIMSELF is Prince of PEACE

Way to PEACE is Not the Avoidance of Conflict

He PROMISES Messianic PAINS before the FINAL Messianic PEACE

What extraordinary teachings these are! They show Jesus' amazing self-understanding, for who but a man who knew himself to be God could make such statements? If Jesus is not God come in the flesh, this is either an example of an incredible insanity or else a hideous attempt to deceive other persons. Which is it? If Jesus was insane, ignore him. It is the only rational thing to do. If he was attempting to deceive other people, expose him. Fight his lies for the sake of those who might be taken in and harmed by them. On the other hand, if Jesus is who he claimed to be—if he is the true Son of God—then Jesus speaks the words of God and must be both believed and obeyed. If Jesus is the Son of God, these are the most important words you will ever hear since your eternal destiny hangs on your acceptance or rejection of them.

James Boice

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Matthew 10.<sup>16</sup>“Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.<sup>17</sup> Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues,<sup>18</sup> and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles.<sup>19</sup> When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour.<sup>20</sup> For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.<sup>21</sup> Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death,<sup>22</sup> and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.<sup>23</sup> When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.<sup>24</sup>“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master.<sup>25</sup> It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.<sup>26</sup>“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known.<sup>27</sup> What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops.<sup>28</sup> And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.<sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.<sup>30</sup> But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.<sup>31</sup> Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.<sup>32</sup> So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven,<sup>33</sup> but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.<sup>34</sup>“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.<sup>35</sup> For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.<sup>36</sup> And a person's enemies will be those of his own household.<sup>37</sup> Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.<sup>38</sup> And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.<sup>39</sup> Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.<sup>40</sup>“Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me.<sup>41</sup> The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward.<sup>42</sup> And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.” 11:1 When Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in their cities.