

STUDY TWO | MATTHEW 10:32-42

THE UNDIVIDED DISCIPLE

OVERVIEW

Loyalty is the theme of these verses. Jesus' call of Matt 4:17 to 'Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven has come near' is not purely a moment of turning but a commitment to a Kingdom lifestyle of witnessing for Christ. While the passage is spoken of firstly to the Twelve, it becomes clear in vv 32-42 that Jesus is widening the application of the Apostles' mission. We observe three Kingdom realities in this passage:

1. A Kingdom principle
2. A Kingdom outcome
3. A Kingdom application

THE KINGDOM PRINCIPLE | VERSES 32-33

The principle is explained in terms of acceptance and rejection. 'Whoever' expands the application of Jesus' teaching beyond the Twelve. Acknowledge Jesus before others and he acknowledges you before his father (John 14:6). Disown Jesus before others and he disowns you before his Father in heaven. 'Acknowledge' does not mean acquiesce as we might use it in everyday language, but *confess* or *trust in*. It is authentic commitment that reflects an inner conviction. Disown is to deny or reject, perhaps from turning away or not turning in the first place.

The principle expounds the power of the gospel. Our actions towards others have heavenly consequences. Faith is not a matter of religious experience but the work of Christ and his Father in our lives. It is an expression of a three way loyalty between the disciple, Jesus and the Father. When we witness for Jesus we experience heavenly approval from both he and his Father.

THE OUTCOME | VERSES 34-38

Undivided loyalty, though costly, delivers Kingdom life. Jesus outlines the experience of the disciple who acknowledges him. Micah 7 is the background to the sobering reality of vv 35-36. Rebellion and division among God's people in Micah's day (before the judgment upon the Southern Kingdom) has

'COME UNTO ME'

JANUARY 31

MATT 10:1-31 WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

FEBRUARY 7

MATT 10:32-42 THE UNDIVIDED DISCIPLE

FEBRUARY 14

MATT 11:1-30 KNOWN & UNKNOWN

FEBRUARY 21

MATT 12:1-14 LORD OF THE SABBATH

FEBRUARY 28

MATT 12:15-37 THE TOUGH & TENDER SERVANT

MARCH 7

MATT 12:38-50 WHO ARE MY FAMILY?

MARCH 14

MATT 13:1-23 THE SOWER & THE SEEDS

MARCH 21

MATT 13:24-43 THE WEEDS, THE SEED & THE YEAST

MARCH 28

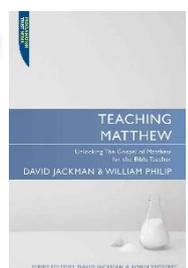
MATT 13:44-58 THE TREASURE, THE PEARL & THE NET

RESOURCE

TEACHING MATTHEW

JACKMAN & PHILIP

(PROCLAMATION TRUST)



become so toxic the prophet declares no one can be trusted, not even within families. Jesus applies this experience to the response the disciple will encounter when they live for the Lord.

The gospel has a saving yet dividing power. Allegiance to Christ is costly and could compromise even the closest of relationships. Jesus is not advocating breakdown of the family. He is highlighting loyalty to him, taking up your cross (v 28) requires losing your life for the sake of receiving his. One life leads to death and the other to eternity, so there are no half-measures when it comes to Kingdom living.

THE APPLICATION | VERSES 40-42

Jesus concludes with a word of encouragement when the going gets tough and relationships get tested because of commitment to him. Those who welcome the disciples welcome the one they follow and in the case of the gospel also welcome the one who sent the one they follow. This is a neat bookend with vv 32-33 and urges acknowledgment of others who come in the name of Christ, whether a prophet, a righteous person (committed believer of v 32), or someone performing an act of mercy in the name of the Lord. Reward carries the promise of approval from both the Son and the Father. The chapter concludes with the theme of loyalty to Christ being a blessing to others. This is how the Kingdom grows and expands its reach.

GETTING STARTED

1. What is the most challenging part of sharing the gospel with:
 - a) your neighbour?
 - b) your work colleagues?
 - c) your family?

INTO THE TEXT

READ VERSES 32-39

2. Why would Jesus have not come to bring peace on the earth?
3. Read Micah 7:1-7. What does the prophet conclude is the priority when he witnesses the state of affairs for God's people?
4. What are the reasons vv 37-39 reveal why family members might turn against disciples of Jesus.
5. What does it mean to love Jesus more than a father or mother, and why might a person do that?
6. What is the outcome of taking up your cross in v 39? What makes a person do so?

READ VERSES 40-42

7. What are the outcomes from the welcoming Jesus encourages?

8. What do you think these rewards are?

TAKEAWAY

9. What do you think is the place of rewards in the Christian life? Should we expect them, and when?

10. From this passage, what actions can you take to be a disciple of Christ:

a) in your own family?

b) in your church family?