

Stage IV. The Great Galilean Ministry

H . Jesus Equips the Twelve Before the 3rd Tour of Galilee

Part 5: Jesus' Absolute Authority Over His Disciples, and Oneness With Them

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #107

MT 10.32-42 (Parallel Texts: None)

32 *"Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. 33 But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven."*

34 *"Do not think that I have come to bring peace upon the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to turn*

*'A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER,
A DAUGHTER AGAINST HIS MOTHER,
AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW.
36 A MAN'S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS OWN HOUSEHOLD...' (Mic. 7.6)*

37 *"Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 Whoever does not wholeheartedly take up their cross and keep on following after me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds their life apart from me will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will actually find it."*

40 *"Anyone who welcomes you is actually welcoming me, and anyone who welcomes me is welcoming the one who sent me. 41 Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. 42 And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you for sure, that person will absolutely not lose their reward."*

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *the words of Jesus are italicized in red*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	Probably Capernaum, in Galilee
Timeline	Oct. (Month 21, just before the 3 rd Tour)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage IV: The Great Galilean Ministry
	H. Jesus Equips the Twelve Before the 3 rd Tour of Galilee
Title	Part 5: Jesus' Absolute Authority Over His Disciples, and Oneness With Them

COMMENT:

Jesus ended the equipping of his twelve apostles for their role in his third tour of Galilee by emphasizing two truths. The first was his absolute authority, and the need for the requisite surrender of his disciples to his Lordship.

Since Jesus is LORD and Savior, a person's relationship with the Father is determined by their relationship to Jesus (10.32-33). A true disciple is more than willing to publicly acknowledge their absolute commitment to Jesus. They consider it a privilege and high honor to be associated with their Lord that is only possible because of the riches of his grace, not their person worthiness.

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Because a disciple's surrender to Jesus as Lord is total and final, he reminded the apostles again that loyalty to him must transcend loyalty to family, friends, or even self (10.34-39). They had seen and heard Jesus demonstrate the priority of Kingdom relationships when his mother and brothers had come to him earlier on the 2nd Tour (DJN #090) and tried to take him home. The goal of discipleship is likeness to Christ. Jesus had already set the example they were to emulate.

So the disciples had to be willing to give up everything in their lives for Jesus, because he alone was worthy of that degree of commitment. They didn't understand it yet, but he was their God! They had already found the greatest treasure in the entire universe in him, so anything they gave up was actually no "sacrifice" at all, for they obtained so much more through Jesus than they gave up. This was the attitude they must maintain. It has been exemplified in Jesus' Kingdom parables of "*The Treasure in the Field*," and the "*Pearl of Great Price*." (DJN #094)

Not only did the disciples need to live this kind of absolute commitment to Jesus, they must not shrink from declaring it as an essential part of the gospel as they preached. Watering down the degree of commitment required to follow Jesus is the same thing as reducing HIS value and worth. Jesus is worthy of our all, for he is fully Divine. Jesus instructed the apostles to boldly declare the emptiness and vanity of life apart from the King of the universe.

Jesus ended his training with the thrilling truth of the oneness between himself as sender, and his disciples as his committed representatives (10.4-42). Because the apostles were going out in obedience to Jesus' command, under his authority, through his gifting, by his Spirit's power, to proclaim his word—not their own—they were truly his representatives. They were one with him in HIS mission, in the same way that Jesus was one with his Father, who had sent him to earth on the same mission.

So Jesus ended his training by assuring the apostles that the people they ministered to would actually be relating to Jesus through the way they related to the apostles. If they received the apostle's message they were receiving Jesus; what was done in support of the apostles was truly being done to Jesus, and would not lack his reward. In the same way, when people rejected their message they were actually rejecting Jesus, the one who was sending his message through his representatives.

Jesus' closing emphasis on the oneness between himself and his sent out disciples brought his training full cycle. He had begun the training session by giving the apostles his authority, gifts, word, and mission. They received all of this freely by grace, and they were to give it away in the same way. This oneness with Jesus likewise meant that the people's response to their message would actually be a response to Jesus himself. It was Jesus working through them all the time. This is the only sure foundation for any of them, or us, to have confidence in ministry.

APPLICATION:

Through this comprehensive teaching from Jesus in MT 10, the apostles were empowered and equipped to represent him in ministry. They were to speak and serve people "*in his name*," not in their own strength and resources. His gifts, power, and reign as LORD were absolute. His expectations toward those who believed in him were absolute. The blessings and eternal benefits of believing in him as LORD and Savior were also absolute. Jesus was teaching the twelve to serve him with boldness and fiery passion—to minister in the same Spirit that he did.

There is no room for complacency or mediocrity in Jesus' training instructions to the twelve. While the gifting and calling as eyewitnesses of the entire earthly ministry of Jesus was unique to the twelve apostles, the principles of ministry that Jesus laid out for them are the same for us today.

Jesus' ultimate mission to "***make disciples of all the nations***" will never be accomplished by lukewarm, self-indulgent believers who have limits on the degree to which they are willing to sacrifice for him. Becoming "*like Jesus*" means we follow him into total abandonment and surrender to the interests of the kingdom of God.

What about you? Does "total abandonment" describe your commitment to the Lordship of Jesus, and his mission to all the nations?