

The Life of Christ's Disciple

"The Disciple's Expectation"

Matthew 10:16-25

Christ's Disciple Must Expect Man's Enmity Against the Message of the Gospel—vs. 16-20

1. His disciples were sent with Christ's authority into a hostile world
 - What it will be like? "as sheep in the midst of wolves" (Gen. 3:15; Matt. 7:15; 10:6)
 - How must they live? "wise as serpents & harmless as doves" (Gen. 3:1; Ps. 58:4-5; Phil. 2:14-15)
2. His disciples were sent to be a testimony to Jews & Gentiles (Acts 5:40-41)
 - How is his disciple to perceive persecution? "for Christ's sake" (Acts 15:26)
 - Why should His disciple not be anxious? The Spirit of the Father in them will speak how & what to say in that hour (Matt. 6:31; Luke 21:13-19; John 14:26; Acts 13:44-49)

Christ's Disciple Must Expect Family Enmity Against the Message of the Gospel—vs. 21-23

1. His disciples were sent into harms way (John 15:18-21, 25)
 - Who may rise against the disciple? Family will put them to death
 - How is the disciple to perceive this? "for Christ's name sake" (Matt. 19:29)
2. His disciples were sent through the cities of Israel:
 - What if he is persecuted? "flee to another city!" (Matt. 10:14-15)
 - What is he to expect? "the Son of Man coming" (Matt. 24:14)

Christ's Disciple Must Expect Satan's Enmity Against the Message of the Gospel—vs. 24-26

1. His disciples were sent as students & servants of Christ (Matt. 9:32-34; John 8:48-49)
 - What can he expect? To be treated as Jesus was treated
 - How is he to live? "to be like his teacher & master"
2. His disciples were sent before the "Accuser" & "Slanderer" (Matt. 12:22-24)
 - What will they say? Call him names as they did Jesus, "Beelzebub" (2 Kings 1:2)
 - Why shouldn't the hidden persecuted disciple fear? "for there is nothing covered that will not be revealed & that will not be known" (Mark 4:22; Luke 12:1-5; 1 Cor. 4:5)

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Questions for Further Discussion & Discovery

1. How do we explain the enmity between the kingdom of the world & the Kingdom of God?
2. Why must Christians have realistic expectations of the world today?
3. How can Christians keep hopeful in a world filled with enmity? (Explain.)
4. What dangers do you think the church is facing today in America?
5. How are Christians in America today to be "wise as serpents and harmless as doves"? (Apply this to a clear & present danger to the church.)
6. Have you ever wondered how you would give an answer for your faith under public scrutiny or pressure? If so, what can we expect from the Spirit of the Father in an hour like that?
7. In what ways does ones commitment to Christ put to risk the enmity of family?
8. What part does expecting the Son of Man come to play in our perseverance?
9. Why was Christ treated with such enmity by the world?
10. What things do you think Christians fear most today?
11. Why are Christians not to fear the enmity of the world?

Next Week:
The Disciple's Confidence
Matthew 10:26-33