

Brandon Phillips / General Adult

The King and His Glory / Discipleship / Matthew 10:24–42

In Matthew 10:24-42, Jesus gives six unavoidable realities of following Him.

Pre-sermon Comments

1 Timothy 2:14–15 LSB

¹⁴ And *it was* not Adam *who* was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into trespass. ¹⁵ But she will be saved through the bearing of children, if they continue in faith and love and sanctification with self-restraint.

Sermon Text

Matthew 10:24–42 LSB

²⁴ “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master. ²⁵ “It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household! ²⁶ “Therefore do not fear them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. ²⁷ “What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear *whispered* in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. ²⁸ “And do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ “Are not two sparrows sold for an assarion? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ “But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ “So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows. ³² “Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. ³³ “But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven. ³⁴ “Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but

a sword.³⁵ “For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW;³⁶ and A MAN’S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD.³⁷ “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.³⁸ “And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.³⁹ “He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.⁴⁰ “He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.⁴¹ “He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward; and he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man’s reward.⁴² “And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward.”

Introduction to our Text

Proposition and Outline

In [Matthew 10:24-42](#), Jesus gives six unavoidable realities of being His true disciple. The true disciple of Jesus Christ will:

- Follow the Example of His Master ([Matthew 10:24-25](#))
- Fear His Master Rather Than Men ([Matthew 10:26-31](#))
- Fully Confess His Master ([Matthew 10:32-33](#))
- Even Forsake Family For His Master ([Matthew 10:34-37](#))
- Follow His Master Even to Death ([Matthew 10:38-39](#))
- Be Fantastically Rewarded by His Master ([Matthew 10:40-42](#))

Review

Matthew 1:1 LSB

¹ The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham:

Galatians 3:16 LSB

¹⁶ Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as *referring* to many, but rather to one, “And TO YOUR SEED,” that is, Christ.

Matthew 7:28–29 LSB

²⁸ Now it happened that when Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were astonished at His teaching; ²⁹ for He was teaching them as *one* having authority, and not as their scribes.

Matthew 9:35–36 LSB

³⁵ And Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. ³⁶ And seeing the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast like sheep without a shepherd.

Matthew 9:37–38 LSB

³⁷ Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. ³⁸ “Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.”

Romans 10:15 LSB

¹⁵ And how will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, “HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!”

Matthew 28:19–20 LSB

¹⁹ “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to keep all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Matthew 16:24 LSB

²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.

Follow the Example of His Master ([Matthew 10:24-25](#))

Matthew 10:24 LSB

²⁴ “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master.

A disciple fully identifies with and submits to his Master

Luke 6:40 LSB

⁴⁰ “A student is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher.

A disciple’s single, overriding purpose is to emulate his teacher. It is enough for him to become as his teacher, not only in the teacher’s wisdom and character but also in the teacher’s treatment. The disciple desires nothing more and settles for nothing less. ~ John MacArthur

For the essence of discipleship is union with Christ, and this means identification with him in both his sufferings and his glory. ~ **John Stott**

The Cost: Identification in Christ’s Suffering

Matthew 10:25 LSB

²⁵ “It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

Matthew 12:22-24 LSB

²² Then a demon-possessed man *who was* blind and mute was brought to Jesus, and He healed him, so that the mute man spoke and saw. ²³ And all the crowds were astounded, and were saying, “Can this man *really* be the Son of David?” ²⁴ But when the Pharisees heard *this*, they said, “This man does not cast out demons except by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons.”

Philippians 2:7-8 LSB

⁷ but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a slave, by being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Colossians 1:24 LSB

²⁴ Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and I fill up what is lacking of Christ's afflictions in my flesh, on behalf of His body, which is the church,

John 6:53-54 LSB

⁵³ So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. ⁵⁴ "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

John 6:66 LSB

⁶⁶ As a result of this many of His disciples went away and were not walking with Him anymore.

Matthew 8:19-20 LSB

¹⁹ Then a scribe came and said to Him, "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go." ²⁰ And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air *have* nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."

Matthew 8:21 LSB

²¹ And another of the disciples said to Him, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father."

Matthew 8:22 LSB

²² But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me, and allow the dead to bury their own dead."

Luke 18:18-23 LSB

¹⁸ And a ruler questioned Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁹ And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. ²⁰ "You know the commandments, 'DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, DO NOT MURDER, DO NOT STEAL, DO NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS, HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.'" ²¹ And he said, "All these things I have kept from *my* youth." ²² And when Jesus

heard *this*, He said to him, “One thing you still lack: sell all that you possess and distribute it to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven. And come, follow Me.”²³ But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich.

Luke 18:26 LSB

²⁶ And those who heard it said, “Then who can be saved?”

I will place no value on anything I have or may possess, except in relation to the kingdom of Christ. ~ David Livingstone

If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him. ~ C.T. Studd

Give me the love that leads the way... the faith that nothing can dismay... the hope no disappointment tires... the passion that will burn like fire. ~ Amy Carmichael

No reserves. No retreats. No regrets. ~ William Borden

The cross is laid on every Christian. The first Christ suffering which every man must experience is the call to abandon the attachments of this world. It is that dying of the old man which is the result of his encounter with Christ. As we embark upon discipleship we surrender ourselves to Christ in union with his death—we give over our lives to death. Thus it begins; the cross is not the terrible end to an otherwise god fearing and happy life, but it meets us at the beginning of our communion with Christ. When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die. It may be a death like that of the first disciples who had to leave home and work to follow him, or it may be a death like Luther’s, who had to leave the monastery and go out into the world. But it is the same death every time death in Jesus Christ, the death of the old man at his call. ~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Fear His Master Rather Than Men ([Matthew 10:26-31](#))

Do not Fear Men

Matthew 10:26 LSB

²⁶ “Therefore do not fear them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.

Matthew 10:26-27 LSB

²⁶ “Therefore do not fear them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. ²⁷ “What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear *whispered* in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops.

True Christianity has no secrets

Christians are not elite defenders of man-made secrets but bold proclaimers of God-given truth. Secrecy has no part in the gospel. ~ John MacArthur

Fearing God

Matthew 10:28 LSB

²⁸ “And do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

1 Corinthians 15:42 LSB

⁴² So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a corruptible *body*, it is raised an incorruptible *body*;

Matthew 10:29-31 LSB

²⁹ “Are not two sparrows sold for an assarion? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ “But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ “So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.

Psalms 139:13 LSB

¹³ For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother’s womb.

Conclusion:

Discussion Questions

What portion of the sermon stood out to you the most and why?

Which of the six “unavoidable realities” of discipleship do you find most challenging personally?

When you hear the phrase “counting the cost,” what comes to mind?

Why do you think many people underestimate what it means to follow Christ?

Read [Matthew 10:24–25](#). What does Jesus mean when He says a disciple is not above his teacher?

Why is suffering a normal part of following Christ rather than an unusual exception?

How does identifying with Christ include both sharing His character and sharing in the world’s hostility toward Him?

In [Matthew 10:26–27](#), why does Jesus command His disciples not to fear men?

What does Jesus mean when He says truth hidden in darkness will be revealed in light?

How does public proclamation of the gospel differ from secretive or man-made religion?

Read [Matthew 10:28](#). What is the difference between fearing man and fearing God?

Why is reverent fear of God the antidote to fear of people?

How do [Matthew 10:29–31](#) show the Father’s care for His people?

What encouragement should believers draw from Jesus’ teaching about the sparrows and the hairs on our heads?

What does “taking up your cross” mean practically in everyday Christian living?

Why is Jesus worthy of total allegiance according to this passage?

In what situations are you most tempted to fear people instead of fearing God?

Have you ever remained silent about biblical truth because you feared rejection or conflict? What motivated your silence? What should motivate us to speak the truth.

What “costs” of discipleship do Christians in our culture commonly try to avoid?

What relationships, comforts, ambitions, or habits can compete with wholehearted devotion to Christ?

Which application point from the sermon was most convicting to you personally?

What does daily self-denial look like in your current season of life?

How can Christians lovingly stand for truth without becoming unnecessarily harsh or combative?

What examples of faithful endurance in suffering have impacted your own walk with Christ?

How does remembering Christ’s suffering for you strengthen you to endure difficulty for Him?

What are practical ways we can encourage one another to remain faithful when discipleship becomes costly?

How can our church better prepare believers for suffering rather than merely for comfort?

What dangers arise when churches minimize the demands of discipleship?

How can small groups help believers persevere through hostility, discouragement, or fear?

In what ways can we help younger Christians develop courage without becoming combative and harsh in standing for biblical truth?

How can we cultivate greater boldness in evangelism while still speaking with gentleness and love?

If following Christ became costly tomorrow, what would be hardest for you to surrender?

What does your life currently communicate about the value of Christ?

Do you believe Jesus is truly better than comfort, approval, safety, success, and worldly security? Why or why not?

How does the resurrection of Christ give believers courage in the face of suffering and even death?

The sermon ended with the question, “Is He worth everything?” How would you answer that question practically with your life this week?

Questions for Children

Ages 2–5

Ages 6–9

Ages 10–12

Teenagers

The Gospel

God

Created and owns everything

[Gen 1:1](#)—*In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth*

[Psalm 24:1](#)—The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it.

Is Perfectly Holy

[1 John 1:5](#)—This is the message we heard from Him and announce to you that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all.

[Matt 5:48](#)—Therefore you are to be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Requires perfect obedience to His Law

[James 2:10](#)—for whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.

Man

Has broken God's law

[Rom 3:10,23](#)—there is none righteous, not even one...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Will pay the eternal penalty for his sin

[Rom. 6:23](#)—For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord

Cannot save himself by his good works

[Titus 3:5](#)—He saved us not based on works which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.

Christ

Came to earth both as God and sinless man

[Col 2:9](#)—For in Him the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form

Demonstrated God's love by dying on the cross to pay sin's penalty

[Rom 5:8](#)—But God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us

[2 Cor 5:21](#)—He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Rose from the grave and is alive today

[1 Cor 15:4](#)—And that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures

Sinners

Must repent of all that dishonors God

[Isa 55:7](#)—Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

[Luke 9:23](#)—if anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

Must believe in Christ as Lord and Savior

[Rom 10:9](#)—that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.

Will you repent and believe in Christ?

[Acts 17:30](#)—therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance God is declaring to men that all everywhere should repent.

Don't hesitate to contact Pastor Brandon or Pastor Keith if you have any questions about this sermon or if you would like to know how to follow Christ.

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Additional Quotes

Salvation is free, but discipleship costs everything we have. ~ **Billy Graham**

Only he who believes is obedient. Only he who is obedient believes. ~ **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

Luther knew that this grace had cost him one life and daily continued to cost him, for he was not excused by grace from discipleship, but instead was all the more thrust into it. ~ **Dietrich Bonhoeffer (Lutheran Pastor)**

We pray that if any, anywhere, are fearing that the cost of discipleship is too great, that they may be given to glimpse that treasure in heaven promised to all who forsake. ~ **Elisabeth Elliot**

It never cost a disciple anything to follow Jesus: to talk about cost when you are in love with someone is an insult. ~ **Oswald Chambers**

Discipleship is serious business to Jesus. To be a disciple and complete the task, we must count the cost. It is a good idea to sue for peace and come to terms with God. But that means we must humbly come to him on his terms. Successful discipleship requires that God be first. ~ **Darrell L. Bock**

It costs to follow Jesus Christ, but it costs more not to. ~ **Anonymous**

Salvation without discipleship is 'cheap grace'. ~ **Dietrich Bonhoeffer (Lutheran Pastor)**

Discipleship is going to cost you whatever you have. Don't expect comfort and ease. ~ **John F. MacArthur**

Our Lord's conception of discipleship is not that we work for God, but that God works through us; he uses us as he likes; he allots our work where he chooses. ~ **Oswald Chambers**

Friend, the cost of discipleship is high. It demands all we have to give. ~ **J. Vernon McGee**

Like the parable of the unfinished tower, the parable of the two kings warns us to count the cost. Only this time what Jesus calls us to consider is not the cost of discipleship, but the cost of *non*-discipleship. ~ **Philip Graham Ryken**

Salvation is God's gift to us because Jesus died for us on the cross. Discipleship is our gift to Him as we take up our cross, die to self, and follow the Lord in everything. ~ **Warren W. Wiersbe**

The kingdom of heaven is worth infinitely more than the cost of discipleship, and those who know where the treasure lies joyfully abandon everything else to secure it. ~ **D. A. Carson**

In both cases a man found something so valuable that he gave up everything for it. That's the point. Jesus is saying it'll cost you everything. That is the extremity of true discipleship. ~ **John F. MacArthur**

Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate. ~ **James Montgomery Boice**

This is not a cowardly evasion of the teaching of Jesus, but an honest desire to discover what he meant. The cost of discipleship involves putting Christ first in everything, before even our relatives, our ambitions and our possessions. ~ **John Stott**

Worship that costs us nothing is worth precisely what it costs. ~ **Leon Lamb Morris**

For the discipleship principle is clear: the poorer our vision of Christ, the poorer our discipleship will be, whereas the richer our vision of Christ, the richer our discipleship will be. ~ **John Stott**

The mark of true discipleship is not simply hearing and believing, but believing and doing. ~ **John F. MacArthur**

The kingdom of heaven is worth infinitely more than the cost of discipleship, and those who know where the treasure lies joyfully abandon everything else to secure it. ~ **D. A. Carson**

To be a Christian it will cost a man his sins. For another thing, it will cost a man *his love of ease*. ~ **J. C. Ryle**

When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die” ~ **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

Successful discipleship requires Jesus to be a priority in life. ~ **Darrell L. Bock**

Next Time

Even Forsake Family For His Master ([Matthew 10:34-37](#))

Follow His Master Even to Death ([Matthew 10:38-39](#))

Be Fantastically Rewarded by His Master ([Matthew 10:40-42](#))