

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.

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## Pre-sermon Comments

### **1 Peter 4:10 LSB**

<sup>10</sup> As each one has received a gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God—

### **Ephesians 4:11–12 LSB**

<sup>11</sup> And He Himself gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ,

### **Colossians 1:28 LSB**

<sup>28</sup> Him we proclaim, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.

## Introduction to our Text

He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose. ~ Jim Elliot

## 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](#)) [Review]

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

## Review

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

#### **Matthew 10:24–25 LSB**

<sup>24</sup> “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master. <sup>25</sup> “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!

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

#### **Matthew 10:26–31 LSB**

<sup>26</sup> “Therefore do not fear them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. <sup>27</sup> “What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear *whispered* in *your* ear, proclaim upon the housetops. <sup>28</sup> “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. <sup>29</sup> “Are not two sparrows sold for an assarion? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup> “But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup> “So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.

## Sermon Text

#### **Matthew 10:32–42 LSB**

<sup>32</sup> “Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. <sup>33</sup> “But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven. <sup>34</sup> “Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup> “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; <sup>36</sup> and A MAN’S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD. <sup>37</sup> “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. <sup>38</sup> “And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. <sup>39</sup> “He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it. <sup>40</sup> “He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. <sup>41</sup> “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. <sup>42</sup> “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.”

## Fully Confess His Master ([Matthew 10:32-33](#))

### **Matthew 10:32-33 LSB**

<sup>32</sup> “Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. <sup>33</sup> “But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.

### **James 2:19 LSB**

<sup>19</sup> You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.

### **1 John 4:15 LSB**

<sup>15</sup> Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

### **Romans 1:16 LSB**

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

**Luke 22:61–62 LSB**

<sup>61</sup> And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, “Before a rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times.” <sup>62</sup> And he went out and cried bitterly.

**2 Timothy 1:8 LSB**

<sup>8</sup> Therefore do not be ashamed of either the witness about our Lord or me His prisoner, but join with *me* in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God,

**2 Timothy 1:12 LSB**

<sup>12</sup> For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

**2 Timothy 1:13 LSB**

<sup>13</sup> Hold to the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

I asked them if they were Christians. If they admitted it, I repeated the question a second and a third time, threatening capital punishment; if they persisted, I ordered them executed. ~ Pliny the younger

Those who denied that they were or had been Christians, when they invoked the gods in words dictated by me, offered prayer with incense and wine to your image... and moreover cursed Christ—none of which those who are really Christians, it is said, can be forced to do—these I thought should be discharged. ~ Pliny the Younger

**Matthew 10:33 LSB**

<sup>33</sup> “But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.

**Romans 3:23 LSB**

<sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

**1 John 1:9 LSB**

<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**Hebrews 10:26–27 LSB**

<sup>26</sup> For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, <sup>27</sup> but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES.

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

**Matthew 10:34 LSB**

<sup>34</sup> “Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.

**Isaiah 2:4 LSB**

<sup>4</sup> And He will judge between the nations, And will render decisions for many peoples; And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they learn war.

**Isaiah 9:6 LSB**

<sup>6</sup> For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

**Psalms 72:7 LSB**

<sup>7</sup> May the righteous flourish in his days, And abundance of peace until the moon is no more.

**Luke 2:14 KJV**

<sup>14</sup> Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

**Luke 2:14 LSB**

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.”

**John 14:27 LSB**

<sup>27</sup> “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

**John 16:33 LSB**

<sup>33</sup> “These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

**Matthew 10:35–36 LSB**

<sup>35</sup> “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; <sup>36</sup> and A MAN’S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD.

**Micah 7:5 LSB**

<sup>5</sup> Do not believe in a neighbor; Do not have confidence in a close companion. From her who lies in your bosom Guard the openings of your mouth.

**Micah 7:6 LSB**

<sup>6</sup> For son treats father as a wicked fool; Daughter rises up against her mother, Daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; A man’s enemies are the men of his own household.

**1 Corinthians 7:12–15 LSB**

<sup>12</sup> But to the rest I say, not the Lord, that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he must not divorce her. <sup>13</sup> And a woman who has an unbelieving husband, and he consents to live with her, she must not divorce her husband. <sup>14</sup> For the unbelieving husband is sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her believing husband. For otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy. <sup>15</sup> Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave. The brother or the sister is not enslaved in such cases, but God has called us to peace.

**Matthew 10:37 LSB**

<sup>37</sup> “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.

**Luke 14:26 LSB**

<sup>26</sup> “If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.

**Luke 9:62 LSB**

<sup>62</sup> But Jesus said to him, “No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

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

**Matthew 10:38 LSB**

<sup>38</sup> “And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

Varus sent a part of his army into the country, to seek out those that had been the authors of the revolt... the number of those that were crucified on this account were two thousand. ~ Josephus

**Matthew 10:39 LSB**

<sup>39</sup> “He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.

Earthly life is temporary, and the person who holds on to it above all else holds on to something that he cannot possibly keep—and in the process he forfeits the eternal life that he cannot lose. ~ John MacArthur

**Hebrews 12:1-2 LSB**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, laying aside every weight and the sin which so easily entangles us, let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

### **James 1:12 LSB**

<sup>12</sup> Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.

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

### **Matthew 10:40–42 LSB**

<sup>40</sup> “He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. <sup>41</sup> “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. <sup>42</sup> “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.”

### **Hebrews 11:13 LSB**

<sup>13</sup> All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

### **Matthew 10:40 LSB**

<sup>40</sup> “He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.

### **John 14:6 LSB**

<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but through Me.

### **Matthew 10:41 LSB**

<sup>41</sup> “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.

### **Matthew 10:42 LSB**

<sup>42</sup> “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.”

**Philippians 3:10–14 LSB**

<sup>10</sup> that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, <sup>11</sup> in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. <sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained *it* or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. <sup>13</sup> Brothers, I do not consider myself as having laid hold of *it* yet, but one thing *I do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

## Discussion Questions

What part of the sermon or passage impacted you the most and why?

Which of the six realities of discipleship feels most challenging to you personally?

How does this passage challenge modern ideas of what it means to be a Christian?

What does it practically mean to become “like” our Master?

Why is suffering often unexpected by modern Christians?

How does identifying with Christ affect the way we respond to rejection or criticism?

Why is the fear of man such a powerful temptation?

What kinds of fears most commonly silence Christians today?

How does the sovereignty of God over even sparrows and the hairs of our heads encourage believers facing opposition?

Can you think of a recent situation where fear of man influenced your behavior or silence?

What is the difference between merely acknowledging facts about Jesus and openly confessing Him?

Why is public identification with Christ so important?

Why do you think Jesus connects our confession of Him with His confession of us before the Father?

How can Christians subtly deny Christ without verbally renouncing Him?

Why is Peter's restoration such an encouraging example for believers?

What are practical ways believers can confess Christ courageously in everyday life?

Do your coworkers, neighbors, friends, or family clearly know you belong to Christ?

Why do Jesus' words about bringing a sword sound shocking?

How does the Gospel create division even within families?

Have you ever experienced relational tension because of your allegiance to Christ?

Why must love for Christ surpass even love for family?

How can Christians maintain love and compassion toward unbelieving family members without compromising truth?

What dangers arise when family relationships become more important than obedience to Christ?

How does an eternal perspective help believers endure relational pain?

Follow His Master Even to Death

What would the image of the cross have communicated to first-century listeners?

How has modern culture softened or sentimentalized the meaning of the cross?

What does it practically mean to “take up your cross” today?

Why does Jesus say the person unwilling to take up his cross is “not worthy of Me”?

What are some ways believers try to preserve their earthly lives rather than surrender them to Christ?

How does losing one’s life for Christ actually lead to finding true life?

What examples from church history or modern missions encourage you in this area?

Why is it encouraging that Jesus notices even a cup of cold water given in His name?

Why does the world often overlook quiet faithfulness?

How does eternal reward motivate perseverance without becoming selfish ambition?

Who are the “little ones” in our lives that may be overlooked by others?

What are practical ways we can support and encourage faithful believers who quietly serve?

How does [Hebrews 11](#) help shape our perspective on faithfulness and reward?

Which of these realities of discipleship do you most need to grow in right now?

What relationships, fears, comforts, or ambitions compete with wholehearted allegiance to Christ?

Is there an area where you have been hesitant to confess Christ openly?

How does the promise of eternal reward strengthen you to endure hardship faithfully?

Read [Philippians 3:10–14](#) together. What does it mean to “press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus”? How does Paul’s example summarize the message of [Matthew 10:24–42](#)?

## **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**