

Study #8 - Matthew 10.34-42

Q1 - What does it say?

"Whoever finds his life" could also be translated as "whoever defines his life for himself."

- How many "whoever" statements are there? Are they connected?

Q2 - What does it mean?

Immediate context:

This passage is part of a larger instruction Jesus gives to send his twelve apostles out. The teaching ends in Matt 11.1 with the familiar phrase "when Jesus had finished..."

In Matthew:

- Matt 10.34 "Do not think I have come to..." Compare with Matt 5.17, 9.13, 20.28. Why do the disciples misunderstand Jesus' mission?
- Matt 10.35-37 "Whoever loves son or daughter more..." Jesus has spoken about this before. How does v.37 help us understand what Jesus is driving at?
- Matt 10.38 is the first time that Jesus has spoken of the cross. Jesus will speak of it again in Matt 16.24-28, connecting it with the coming of the Son of Man.
- Matt 10.41 "A prophet's reward" is not a common phrase, but the connection with a righteous person's reward makes it clear that Jesus is talking about eternal life. Verse 42 also links to a teaching Jesus will give in Matt 25.31-40 on the final judgement.
- Matt 10.42 "one of these little ones" (cf. Matt 9.36). Jesus will speak more on this theme in Matt 18.1-14.

Elsewhere in scripture:

- Matt 10.35 "I have come to set a man against his father..." Read Micah 7.1-7. Why is Jesus speaking about judgement here?

Q3 - What has been revealed about Jesus through this passage?

There was some uncertainty on what Jesus meant about the coming of the Son of Man in Matt 10.23. How has Jesus' teaching here revealed an essential aspect of his mission as the Son of Man?

What does the coming of the Son of Man mean?

Q4 - How will I respond? What will I pray?