Notes for “Strains and Schisms from Spirituality” (Matthew 10:34-39)

April 6, 2025

1. Jesus can be the greatest source of peace in your life.
   1. Provocative nature of current passage is due to expectation from rest of Scriptures
      1. John 14:27
      2. John 16:33
      3. Romans 5:1
      4. Galatians 5:22-23
      5. Ephesians 2:14
      6. Philippians 4:6-7
   2. Personal experience of ANTs (Automatic Negative Thoughts)
      1. Jesus is Voice of Truth that speaks contrary to these inner thoughts
2. Jesus can be the greatest source of conflict in your life.
   1. Conflict in ourselves.
      1. The Holy Spirit is a unique Person in the Trinity
      2. The Holy Spirit is also of the same substance as Christ
      3. In some ways, the Holy Spirit can be the Spirit of Christ
      4. The Spirit convicts us of sin.
         1. That is intense personal conflict.
   2. Conflict in our relationships.
      1. Historical conflict in the lives of disciples (martyrdom).
      2. Realization of changes in their families and personal lives due to discipleship.
      3. Consider how changes could have been interpreted. (cult?)
      4. Current potential for relational strain.
         1. Importance in new marriages
         2. Strain on families with new converts
3. Conflict always demands a determination about allegiance and value.
   1. Jesus must be given place of supreme allegiance and affection.
   2. The illustration with family may prove more difficult for some than others.
   3. Conflict may not be due to differences in faith, but in demands of faith.
      1. John Bunyan imprisonment
   4. Conflict may be due to differences in faith.
   5. “Conflict is a consequence, not the cause for the crusade”
   6. Conflict may happen because of differences in conviction, but make certain that they are because of Christ and not our carnality
4. Following Jesus demands a willingness to risk everything and everyone.
   1. Following Jesus means more than elevating Him above family, He must be above me
   2. Carrying our cross is not about tolerating tough people
   3. Carrying our cross is not even a reference to Calvary
      1. He hasn’t predicted it to them yet
   4. Carrying a cross is a willingness to march to your own death
      1. Likely a reference to the massacre of 2000 Jews that rebelled against Roman taxation and were crucified along the sides of the road by Varus as a public sign
5. Holding on too tight can cause you to lose hold altogether.
   1. Self-preservation is a natural tendency
   2. A value of our life above a value of His plan has eternal consequences
   3. True salvific faith will not shy away from uncomfortable or unthinkable prices to be paid