

TO BE A DISCIPLE

Unit 1801: *The Contradicted Christ*

Matthew 10:26-11:15

CONTINUITY FROM LAST SESSION (December 8, 2024)

1. Jesus SENDS OUT (*a-po-stell-ow*) the apostles on an apostolic mission.
2. The apostles are sent out only to the *lost sheep of the house of Israel*.
3. Lost sheep are greeted [*Shalom*] assessed to be *worthy* [receive Christ].
4. Due to danger, apostles must be *wise as serpents but innocent as doves*.

I. DISCIPLES MUST HAVE NO FEAR WHEN SENT INTO MISSION (Matthew 10:26-33)

MATTHEW 10:26-33 26 "So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. 27 What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. 28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30 But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. 32 So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, 33 but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

1. Fear of Persecution (26)
2. Fear of God's judgment on disobedience (28)
3. Fear of whether or not God cares (31)

II. JESUS BRINGS A SWORD (SEPARATION) - NOT PEACE (Matthew 10:34-39)

MATTHEW 10:34-39 34 "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come 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 person's enemies will be those of his own household. 37 Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

1. Christ has come to separate humans from unbelief and evil.
2. Clinging to unbelief and evil means JUDGMENT.

III. CHRIST GIVES *RIGHTEOUS REWARDS* TO FAITHFUL DISCIPLES (Matthew 10:40-42)

MATTHEW 10:40-42 40 "Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. 41 The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. 42 And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."

1. Christ identifies the disciple with Himself
2. Then identifies Himself with the Father.
3. God watches over ALL HIS SERVANTS - and REWARDS even the smallest kindness shown to a person in mission

THE CONTRADICTED CHRIST

Three ways that people CONTRADICT Jesus Christ:

1. Ignore or discredit Christ's messengers
2. Select part of Christ's message that you want – and ignore the rest
3. Assert your privileged position [*yeah, but ...*] in the face of Christ's word

IV. MESSENGERS FROM JOHN THE BAPTIST COME TO MEET JESUS (Matthew 11:1-19)

MATTHEW 11:1-6 1 When Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in their cities. 2 Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples 3 and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" 4 And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5 the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. 6 And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

1. Three 'Messianic Signs in the Old Testament: Preaching, Teaching and Healing
2. **Matthew 3:11-12** – John CONTRADICTS Christ by trying to control workings of God
3. See also Luke 9:51-56 and Mark 9:38-39

V. MATTHEW CONTRASTS JOHN THE BAPTIST AND JESUS THE MESSIAH (Matthew 11:7-15)

MATTHEW 11:7-15 7 As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. 9 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is he of whom it is written, "'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.' 11 Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is *least in the kingdom of heaven* is greater than he. 12 From the days of John the Baptist until now *the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence*, and the violent take it by force. 13 For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, 14 and if you are willing to accept it, he is *Elijah who is to come*. 15 He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

1. John identifies Jesus as MESSENGER predicted by the prophet Malachi [450 AD].
2. See **Malachi 3:1** – John is great ... but Christ the Messiah is greater
3. Arrival of the Kingdom of God has always evoked violence
4. **Malachi 4:5-6** – The story behind the “resurgence of Elijah the OT prophet
5. The Kingdom of God as CRISIS (dangerous opportunity)