

Be Reformed – Open the bible: study, dig and ask what the main point of the passage is

Be Charismatic – Expect the Holy Spirit: ask God to speak, minister, build up and lead us to maturity

Be Community – Love God's people: share vulnerably, apply, pray and build each other up

Be Missional – Win the world: apply lessons to outreach, make content accessible to non-Christians

Matthew 10:26-42

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.

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.

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."

Study Guide 2 Jan 2011 – Jesus Our Reward



Summary

Over the last few weeks we have heard that Jesus' mission is our mission. When we are on that mission, Jesus' suffering is our suffering. Here Jesus tells us that we will share His reward if we are faithful and suffer for His mission.

We should not be afraid of suffering but rejoice in it as it brings us great reward. We ought to be afraid of God instead, since He is the true sovereign power who can cast us into hell. He will be displeased with us if we do not proclaim His gospel "from the rooftops" and give Him full glory.

Jesus brings a sword. He rejects the world's definition of peace and gives us His own definition – peace with God. Peace with God means war with everything that opposes God, external and internal.

God Himself is our great reward! We must stay focused on our mission and receive suffering with joy, remembering the reward. We must welcome those who are doing God's will. Above all, we remember that all rewards find their value in God Himself.

Key points

The peace the world seeks is illusive – true peace is peace with God, the sovereign of all creation.

Explanation

>>What must we do to receive the rewards Jesus promises in the passage?

>>Why should a Christian not be afraid of persecution?

>>What is Jesus' definition of peace?

Application

>>Is the gospel "in broad daylight" as you live your life? If it is not, put it out in the light by telling someone what you believe and why. If you are unsure of how to put it, ask one of the church leaders to help you.

>>Put sinfulness to the sword in your own life and live out the power of the gospel in the world. Consider one thing this week that you know displeases God about your life and commit to change your heart and hands by His power.

Final thoughts

If we do not live with the gospel "in broad daylight", we disobey Jesus' command and divert from His mission.