

**Be a Missionary! (Part Two)**

- 1) With Your Words
- 2) Without Fear
- 3) **Committed**
- 4) **Confident**

*Introduction*

- Be Msnry – that's what J urges us do in Mt 10. In case missed last wk, today we continue w/part 2 of 2-wk emph on Xian msn wrk. Hearing same Gos from Mt 10 2 wks row. Last wk J urged: be msnry w/words (verbally share faith w/others) & w/o fear, in spite of persctns may face, bec know God w/us. Today, in part 2, J still spkng 12 Aps and all Xians, you/me, (even you, confirmands): be msnry...

*Committed*

- Cmmtd – to LJ, above all things, above evrythng else in life – even fam. Admit: sounds remrkblly harsh when J: **vs. 34-36**. May seem harsh, but is honest. J divds ppl, even membs same houshld. That divsn so severe, uses brutal imgry sword – not peace but sword. Doesn't mean J doesn't brng peace at all. He's prince/peace. At birth, angels, peace. MT: peace leave w/u, give you. Very 1<sup>st</sup> thing said after rose fr dead: peace be w/u. Certly J came bring peace: of forgvns, God's love, eternal life hvn. But when says **vs. 34**, saying: invtbl result of you trustng in me as Sav: there'll be divsn btwn you/unbels. Really only 2 types ppl in wrld: ppl bel msg Xp, & don't. Msg Xp (which you confmnds have come know, bel, today confess) simply this: all ppl in this wrld sinned vs God, deserve eternal death in hell; but J came take that sin away; died/rose be wrld's Sav. Evryone who bels in J, saved, go hvn; but those don't bel, not saved. That's msg Xp/Xianty. That msg is so abslut, specfc, cut/dry: either bel/don't – which invtbly results in divsn.
- Even among fam membs. Why J: **vs. 35-36**. These wrds true your fam? Is there divsn in your extndd houshld over Xp? Maybe not; maybe your whole fam all Xians – what wndrfl blessing! But I bet that most you don't have look very far on fam tree find unbels. In fact, some you may be only Xians in entire fam. And: we of course love reltvs/fam. But Xnty creates a divsn (even among fams) btwn those who bel in J, & don't.
- Since true, J today: be msnry cmmtd me! **Vs. 37-38**. J: be cmmtd me! Be willing say: if I have make choice btwn Xp & fam, then I'm going stay cmmtd Xp; going love Xp more than anything else in wrld & remain cmmtd him – bec I know Xp is cmmtd to me. I know Xp loved me so much: took up cross (very litrlly). On cross J rescued me fr Stn/hell, bore punshmnt I desrvd bec my sin, saved me – so that I'd have true peace, forgvnes, eternal life in hvn. This: Xian faith! This: what you know/bel as Xians. And this: what our confmnds have been studying w/us prs, and what they've come to bel for themslvs. Today, 9 students will stand before God's altar, confess faith in J as Lord/Sav, and profess commtmnt to him. And Mon, NMW. In rite of conf, one of questns: "*Do you intend to continue steadfast in this teaching and to endure all things, even death, rather than fall away from it?*" And as Luth confmnds, we prom: "*I do, and I ask God to help me.*" That's Xian commtmnt, to the God who's cmmtd us. So if divsn btwn me & non-Xian fam membs is sword I have bear, or cross I have take up to follow J, then that's okay. That's what I'll do, and want to. I want be msnry cmmtd to Xp.

*Confident*

- Also, confdnt. Last wk we said: Mt 10 called Msnry Discrs; J gives all kinds instrctns for msn wrk. Well, after sevrل pargrphs of hearing J say that Xian msn wrk involves persctn, sword, cross, fam divsn, we may not feel very confdnt. But here at end lssn, J gives us this confdnc: **vs. 40a**. Means some ppl'll welcome us, bel our msg. When we share our faith w/others, some will put their faith in



Xp. J will use our words & bless our wrk. Also, vs. 41-42. What's w/this reward? As Luths, as confmnds, quick say: we can't save selves; our good works do not earn our salvtn; only J could do that. All very true. But here J says he will reward msnrys, and those who listen to msnrys. So, he's talking re all Xians. And this reward, then, nothing other than: etrnly in hvn which Xp gives us as free gift/grace. When Xian msnrys, and the Xians who listen them, hear/study/bel GW/God's proms, when put faith in Xp as Sav and someday go hvn – that's their reward: etrnly life, earned by J, given freely to us.

- And that is what gives us confdnc! If we know: J loves us, our sins forgvn, hvn our hom – then we can be confdnt J will bless our msn wrk – maybe in ways we can't even imagn; maybe J will use our wrds really touch someone's life – maybe lots ppl – we don't know. But here's what I do know: we have msn in this life, a purp; that msn is 2fold: bel in J as our Sav, and help as many other ppl bel in J as Sav, as well. That's our 2fold msn in life – what God wants us do. And so we can be confdnt that he'll be w/us and bless us.

### *Conclusion*

- So as we wrap up this 2-wk emph on msn wrk, how about little piece practcl advice on how. For 2 wks, heard J: be msnry w/words, w/o fear, cmmtd, confdnt. And we want to, but how? Well, lots diff technqs/stratgs for msn wrk; but here's some simple advice: invite someone! Just smthng non-confrrntnl re invttn. And you don't have be elqnt spkr, biblcl schlr to invite someone. Could say: "On Suns/Mons, I go ch; wondrd if you'd like come w/me smtm; come see what we do... meet prs, hear sermon... we could sit tog, show you what do... here's a bulletin, see what we do... Or, ch website & YouTube (pandemic - videos)... prs even teach online classes for ppl interested in joining ch. Come & see." That's an invitation.
- I know evnglsm, msn wrk become more diff in last few months. Covid-19 has really forced us limit contact with others; we have be lot more careful re where we go, what do. That's hard! But as we socially distance, let's not spiritually distance. Don't distance yourself from J, or from church, or from worship, or from your msn as a Xian. Think smone you can invite, muster up courage, and make invitation. And there are certly other ways to share your faith too. But no matter what you do, do not be content to keep quiet re Xp. The Lord has called you be his child; now calls you be his msnry. So be msnry!

### **Matthew 10:34-42**

<sup>34</sup> "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup> For I have come to turn "a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law – <sup>36</sup> a man's enemies will be the members of his own household."

<sup>37</sup> "Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. <sup>38</sup> Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

<sup>40</sup> "Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup> Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. <sup>42</sup> And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."