

## Lectionary Bible Study Our Savior Lutheran Church

### Season of Pentecost

#### Lectionary 12

Jeremiah 20:7-13, Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18,  
Romans 6:1b-11, **Matthew 10:24-39**



[Click here](#) to join Pastor Mark for a Live Zoom conversation each Wednesday at 10am.

Meeting ID: 868 8793 0554

Password: 654321

Or dial in for audio only: 1-301-715-8592

#### Matthew 10:24-39 (NRSV)

<sup>24</sup> "A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; <sup>25</sup> it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

<sup>26</sup> "So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. <sup>27</sup> What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. <sup>28</sup> 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. <sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup> And even the hairs of your head are all counted. <sup>31</sup> So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

<sup>32</sup> "Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; <sup>33</sup> but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

<sup>34</sup> "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup> 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; <sup>36</sup> and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

<sup>37</sup> 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; <sup>38</sup> and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

#### Matthew 10:24-39 (The Message)

<sup>24</sup> "A student doesn't get a better desk than her teacher. A laborer doesn't make more money than his boss. <sup>25</sup> Be content—pleased, even—when you, my students, my harvest hands, get the same treatment I get. If they call me, the Master, 'Dungface,' what can the workers expect?

<sup>26</sup> "Don't be intimidated. Eventually everything is going to be out in the open, and everyone will know how things really are. <sup>27</sup> So don't hesitate to go public now. <sup>28</sup> "Don't be bluffed into silence by the threats of bullies. There's nothing they can do to your soul, your core being. Save your

fear for God, who holds your entire life—body and soul—in his hands. <sup>29</sup> "What's the price of a pet canary? Some loose change, right? And God cares what happens to it even more than you do. <sup>30</sup> He pays even greater attention to you, down to the last detail—even numbering the hairs on your head! <sup>31</sup> So don't be intimidated by all this bully talk. You're worth more than a million canaries. <sup>32</sup> "Stand up for me against world opinion and I'll stand up for you before my Father in heaven. <sup>33</sup> If you turn tail and run, do you think I'll cover for you? <sup>34</sup> "Don't think I've come to make life cozy. I've come to cut—<sup>35</sup> make a sharp knife-cut between son and father, daughter and mother, bride and mother-in-law—cut through these cozy domestic arrangements and free you for God. <sup>36</sup> Well-meaning family members can be your worst enemies. <sup>37</sup> If you prefer father or mother over me, you don't deserve me. If you prefer son or daughter over me, you don't deserve me. <sup>38</sup> "If you don't go all the way with me, through thick and thin, you don't deserve me. <sup>39</sup> If your first concern is to look after yourself, you'll never find yourself. But if you forget about yourself and look to me, you'll find both yourself and me."

Matthew's Jesus is honest and direct, discipleship would be no cake walk. If the disciples were naïve, this passage offers blunt warnings. Just a few verses earlier, Jesus tells the disciples, "See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be as wise as serpents and innocent as doves." (Matthew 10:16)

1. *What is the purpose of healthy warnings?*
2. *Before your take on an assignment, or enter into a relationship, do you want to know what you are getting into to? Does it help when those around you are honest?*

Amid the honest warnings of Jesus to his disciples, in the verses 26-31, Jesus tells the disciples three times not to be afraid.

3. *When you were afraid, how do others help bring calm, assurance, purpose, and resolve for you?*
4. *Compare Jesus' three words about not fearing or being afraid in the NRSV translation to the phrases used in the Message paraphrase. What insights do you glean?*

Verses 29-30 offer a beautiful imagery of encouragement, and reminder of about how precious disciples are to God.

5. *How does it feel to know God has your back, and that you are known intimately?*

A key to understanding verses 32-33 is remembering who Jesus is speaking to. His disciples were peasants, the kind of people who were unacknowledged by important people. Imagine being a peasant who hears they would be acknowledged before God.

6. *Do you hear verses 32-33 more as an affirmation of reward or as a stern warning?*

Of course, it is one thing to be ostracized by strangers. It is something else to be rejected by family members. Jesus is most serious about this. "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth: I have not come to bring peace, but a sword." (Matthew 10:34)

7. *How do you square Matthew 10:34 with Jesus being called the Prince of Peace?*
8. *What would it mean to be alienated from family due to faith in Jesus?*

Jesus understands discipleship as a series of choices made daily – to follow Jesus or to chase after something else. Jesus asks for sole allegiance when he encourages followers to pick up a cross and to follow. Make no mistake, carrying a cross is not an easy task and takes determination and persistence. Yet, in surrendering life as we might know it for Jesus' sake means discovering the life as Jesus intends it.