

Speaker: Pastor Buster Brown

Today's Message: Thanksgiving Dinner Could Be Interesting...

Today's Text: Matthew 10:34-39

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. 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. And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. 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. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

Matthew 10:34-39

“Let no one be surprised at learning that so much persecution is to be encountered by the Twelve, and by Christ-followers in general; for it was the object of Christ's mission to introduce principles which would be sure to cause divisions and conflicts among men, even within the bosom of families. His religion was so wholly opposed to the spirit of the world, that such a result was inevitable.”

Matthew. p.231. John Broadus (1827-1895), Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

1. Caution: This passage should cause a certain sense of personal unrest or consternation.

“And it is no doubt easy enough to love the fellow creature less, and to imagine that this is happening because we are learning to love God more, when the real reason may be quite different...Many people do not find it really difficult to hate their wives or mothers. (One author) pictures the other disciples stunned and bewildered by this strange command, but not Judas. He laps this up easily.”

CS Lewis, *The Four Loves*

Who are meant by *father* and *mother* in the fifth commandment?

Answer: By *father* and *mother*, in the fifth commandment, are meant, not only natural parents, but all superiors in age and gifts; and especially such as, by God's ordinance, are over us in place of authority, whether in family, church, or commonwealth...**Westminster Larger Catechism, Question 124**

The honor we owe is all due reverence in heart, word, and behavior; prayer and thanksgiving for them; imitation of their virtues and graces; willing obedience to their **lawful commands** and counsels... **Westminster Larger Catechism, Question 127**

2. There are parameters to the Fifth Commandment: *“But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.”* **Acts 5:29**

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.” **Malachi 4:5-6**

3. We must soberly understand the message of **2 Corinthians 2:14-16a**:

“But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life...”

4. In the midst of this difficult statement there is an appeal to God’s provision and the embrace of life, **Matthew 10:29-31,39**:

“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows...Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”