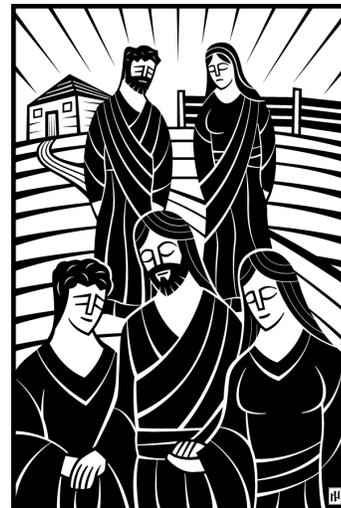


**Be a Missionary! (Part Two)**

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

Be a missionary – what Jesus urges you in Mt 10. In case you missed last week, today is part two of a two week emphasis on mission work. Hearing same Gospel two weeks. Last week first half: missionary with words, without fear, in spite of persecutions we may face. Today in second half (bold) Jesus speaking to 12 Apostles (before sending), also all Christians, you and me – be a missionary!



Committed, to Lord Jesus above all things, even family. Sounds harsh when Jesus says: **vs. 34-36**. Not flattering description of Christ's work, but honest. Jesus divides people, even members of household; division so severe brutal image of sword. "Not peace but sword." Not saying he doesn't bring peace at all. At birth, angels, peace. MT: "**Peace I leave with you...give you**" (Jn 14:27). After rose from dead, peace (Jn 20). Clearly Jesus did come to bring peace: of forgiveness and eternal life in heaven. But when he says **vs. 34**, saying: "Inevitable result of my coming is not only peace, also division!" That's why there's really only two types of people in world: people who believe message of Christ, and don't. Message of Christ: "World, full of sin, without intervention, is on way to hell. But I came to take that sin away; I died and rose to be world's Savior. Those who believe are saved; those who don't believe reject my work and are not saved." Essentially message of Christ. Because so b/w, specific, you either believe it or don't – which inevitably results in division, even among families.

Why **vs. 35-36**. Are these words true of your family? For many I know they are. Not everybody – I know some have families all Christian, all WELS! True blessing! Not case for everyone. Not for me. Aunts, uncles, cousins – not Christian. We love each other, but we are different. My Easter story. Jesus divides people. Many of us have non-Christian families members; if we're honest, won't see them in heaven. That is a painful sword, the inevitable result of message of Christ – it divides people.

Since true, Jesus says: be a missionary committed to me! **Vs. 37-38**. If family member has rejected Christ, then Christian missionary must love Jesus more than family; must be willing to say: "If I have to make choice between Christ and family, then I'll stay committed Christ! I will love Christ more than anything else in this world and be committed to him as missionary, because I know Christ is committed to me! He took up his cross (literally) to save me, so that in him I would find true, eternal life. So if division between me and family is the sword I have to bear or cross I have to take up to follow Jesus, that's okay. I going to be a missionary committed to Christ."

Also, a missionary that's confident. After several paragraphs of Jesus saying, "Being missionary involves persecution, sword, cross, division," may not feel confident. Here at end of lesson, Jesus gives this confidence and promises that he will bless our mission work. First, **vs. 40a**. There are some who will receive us and believe message; we'll share faith, they'll come to faith in Christ. That means Jesus will use our words to bring them to him; he will bless our mission work. Also, **vs. 41-42**. What's with this reward? I thought as Lutherans were we quick to say: we can't save ourselves; our good works don't earn our salvation. Very true. But here Jesus says he reward missionaries, and those who listen to missionaries – all Christians. So reward is nothing other than eternal salvation Christ came to give us as free gift of his grace. Missionaries and the people who listen to them will go to heaven as believers. That's the reward – eternal life with Jesus in heaven! That gives me confidence. If I know heaven is my home, my sins are forgiven,

Jesus loves me – if I know this, then I can be confident Jesus will bless my mission work, in ways I may not know. But I do know: my purpose, mission in life is twofold: believe and help as many others believe. My purpose in life. Since that’s what God wants me to do, I can be confident he’ll bless my mission work.

As we wrap up this emphasis on mission work, one piece of practical advice on how. For two weeks, be a missionary: with words, without fear, committed, confident. And we want to, but how? Millions of ways how; here’s one: invite! Just something non-confrontational about an invitation. Don’t have to be eloquent speaker or biblical scholar to invite someone. “Come, to a service with me at my church; meet my pastors; see what I do on Sundays/Mondays; see what’s important to me. Here’s a bulletin; look it over. Go check out my church’s website; listen to service; see what you think. Here’s a little flyer about VBS; bring kids to our VBS; check out our church the Sunday after. We’re having a Friendship Sunday in a few weeks where we invite friends; would you come to church with me that day?” These are all invitations. Invitation goes a long way. Repeated invitations go even further. So my advice: think of someone you can invite, muster up courage, and make invitation. That person’s eternity may depend on it. And, of course, there’s a million other ways you can share faith, too. But no matter what you do, don’t be content to keep quiet about Christ. The Lord has called you to be his child; now he calls you to be his missionary. So be a missionary!

#### **Matthew 10:34-42 (NIV 1984)**

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

<sup>40</sup> “He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup> Anyone who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and anyone who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man’s reward. <sup>42</sup> And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward.”

