

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Matthew 10:34-42

Read in Context

Welcoming in _____

To the _____

Look for _____ and be the _____

READ. REFLECT. RESPOND. REMEMBER.

Discipleship has been defined as doing two things: Listening and Following. The way of the disciples of Jesus involves this high engagement in learning what he has to say, and then attempting (sometimes failing) to put that into practice, engaging in learning again, practicing, etc etc. Think of it more as being an apprentice in a trade than getting a degree. I say that because there is somewhat of contrast to the way that Christianity has been practiced in Western Cultures for a significant period of time, or at least how many of us in the west have come to faith. We are often invited to a set of truths, propositions, and are asked to “believe” these things. Maybe we change the way we live because of it, but maybe we don’t, and ultimately it is irrelevant under this system as long as you, the individual, has belief. Of course you were *encouraged* to live out your faith, but there was never a particular mandate to do so as long as you had belief in Jesus your Savior. Part of the great good news of Jesus in this day is that that system is dying. We are certainly asked to believe in God, but there is a recovery of Listening and Following. Read Matthew 5 & 10.

Reflect: How have these two different ways (Listening & Following vs. Believing) been impactful in your life? Can you identify how they work on you and your faith, and on the faith of the community of God?

The danger of the Listening and Following path is that people can start to believe it is their following that makes them the people of Jesus (i.e. their *work*) instead of the grace of Jesus. Jesus addresses this in Matthew 5 with a series of statements about our need. How do we remember our need for Jesus?

Remember: “Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.” Matthew 10:39