



# ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE

## LIVE A WORTHY LIFE

Matthew 10:32-39

- In Matthew 10 Jesus challenges His disciples to be fully committed to loving Him, living for Him and serving Him regardless of life's challenges (Matthew 10:1-31).
- Jesus - *"Everyone who acknowledges Me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before My Father in heaven. But everyone who denies Me here on earth, I will also deny before My Father in heaven."* (Matthew 10:32-33)
- One way we can acknowledge the Lord publicly is by taking the step of baptism by immersion.
- Peter - *"Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."* (Acts 2:38)
- The word for baptism in the Greek language (the original language of the New Testament) is *"baptizo"* which literally means to immerse or submerge in water.
- "Baptism is an outward expression of an inward faith." – Watchman Nee
- You can sign up today for next Sunday's *All In Baptism Day* on your Communication Card or at [www.celebrationchurch.org/baptism](http://www.celebrationchurch.org/baptism).
- After receiving Jesus as our Savior and taking the step of baptism, we need to focus on living a "worthy life" (Matthew 10:34-39).
- Paul - *"I beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God."* (Ephesians 4:1)
- *What are some steps that we need to take to live a "worthy life" for the Lord?*

**To Live A Worthy Life We Must Be Willing To:**

### **SUBORDINATE OUR RELATIONSHIPS UNDER JESUS**

- Jesus - *"Don't imagine that I came to bring peace to the earth! I came not to bring peace, but a sword. I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. Your enemies will be right in your own*

*household! If you love your father or mother more than you love Me, you are not worthy of being Mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than Me, you are not worthy of being Mine.” (Matthew 10:34-37)*

- **We shouldn't misunderstand Jesus, because God's Word says *Jesus Followers are to love our family members, even when we experience conflict with them.***
- *“Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from Him . . . and are like arrows in a warrior's hands. How joyful is the man whose quiver is full of them!” (Psalm 127:3-5)*
- Jesus - *“Beware that you don't look down on any of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels are always in the presence of My heavenly Father.” (Matthew 18:10)*
- *“You husbands must love your wives and never treat them harshly.” (Colossians 3:17)*
- *“Older women must train the younger women to love their husbands and their children.” (Titus 2:4)*
- **We need to understand Jesus' words, as He clearly tell us that we are to love Him more than anyone or anything else.**
- Jesus - *“The most important commandment is this: You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.” (Mark 12:29-30)*
- **Who is really #1 in my life – my spouse, children, friends, my boss, my football team, myself or \_\_\_\_\_?**

**To Live A Worthy Life We Must Be Willing To:**

#### **SUFFER ANY HARDSHIP FOR JESUS**

- Jesus - *“If you refuse to take up your cross and follow Me, you are not worthy of being Mine.” (Matthew 10:38)*
- **To most people the Cross is a nice decoration but in Jesus' day it was an instrument of death.**
- **Jesus was using the concept of the Cross to show what might be the price of obedience to God.**
- Paul - *“To me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better.” (Philippians 1:21)*
- **Self-preservation is one of our strongest impulses, but even that must not come before our devotion to Jesus.**
- **Sometimes becoming a follower of Jesus means: 1) your family will disown you, 2) your “friends” will make fun of you, and/or 3) your boyfriend/girlfriend will break up with you.**
- Paul - *“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)*
- **What “hard steps” do I need to be willing to take to become a better follower of Jesus?**

**To Live A Worthy Life We Must Be Willing To:**

#### **SURRENDER OUR LIFE COMPLETELY TO JESUS**

- Jesus - *“If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for Me, you will find it.” (Matthew 10:39)*

- **To be Jesus' "followers" we must be willing to love Him more than our possessions.**
- Jesus - *"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."* (Matthew 6:24 NIV).
- Jesus - *"A person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God."* (Luke 12:21)
- **To be Jesus' "followers" we must be willing to love Him more than our our pursuits.**
- Jesus - *"If any of you wants to be My follower, you must put aside your selfish ambition, shoulder your cross, and follow Me."* (Mark 8:34)
- **To be Jesus' "followers" we must be willing to love Him more than pleasure.**
- *"In the last days there will be very difficult times. For people will love only themselves and their money. . . . They will love pleasure rather than God. They will act as if they are religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that."* (2 Timothy 3:1-2, 4-5)
- **We are to love Jesus far more than anything else in our lives.**
- "Following Jesus means following Him alone. "Fans" don't want to put Jesus on their throne of their hearts. Instead they keep a couch on their hearts, and, at the most, give Jesus a cushion." (Kyle Idleman, *Not A Fan*)
- ***Who or what competes with Jesus in my life?***
  
- **In Luke's Gospel, accompanying these words Jesus tells two stories to inform us that we shouldn't start with Him if we're not willing to go "all the way" with Him (Luke 14:28-32).**
- Jesus - *"Salt is good for seasoning. But if it loses its flavor, how do you make it salty again? Flavorless salt is good neither for the soil nor for fertilizer. It is thrown away. Anyone who is willing to hear should listen and understand!"* (Luke 14:34-35)
- **Some people follow Jesus doctrinally (they accept His teachings), emotionally (they are attracted to His person) and morally (they see the value in conforming their lives to Jesus' teaching), but real *Jesus Followers* are converted totally (they're willing to commit their mind, heart and will to the Lord).**
- "It's possible to be a Christian without being a Disciple . Once someone was talking to a great scholar about a younger man and he said, 'He tells me that he was one of your students.' The teacher responded, 'He may have attended my lectures, but he was not one of my students.' There is a world of diff between attending lectures and being a student. It is one of the supreme handicaps of the church that in the church there are so many distant followers of Jesus, and so few real disciples." (William Barclay)
- ***What is the Lord primarily communicating to me through this message, and what steps do I need to take to apply it to my life?***