

Hating Family

Introduction.

I. Once Jesus uttered these words. (Lk. 14:25, 26).

25 Now great multitudes were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, 26 "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.

II. These words of Jesus are very hard and harsh.

- A. Jesus states those coming to Him must “hate” their families - father, mother, wife, children, brothers and sisters.
- B. Jesus also states those coming to Him must “hate” their own lives.
- C. This sounds very strange and shocking coming from the lips of Jesus.

I. Reasons The Statement Is So Difficult

A. Jesus uses the word “hate.”

- 1. It comes from the Greek “miseo” [mee seh oh].
- 2. The word often means “to loathe, detest, abhor, to dislike exceedingly.”
- 3. Few, if any words, have a more negative meaning than the word “hate.”

B. **Jesus preached love.**

- 1. Love for **God** (Matt. 22:37).
- 2. Love for **neighbors**. (Matt. 22:39).
- 3. Love for **self** (Matt. 22:39). See 1 Cor. 6:19, 20
- 4. Love for **enemies**. (Matt. 5:43, 44).
- 5. Love other disciples more than **self**. (Jn. 13:34, 35; 15:12).

C. Jesus taught **we are to honor parents**.

- 1. Honoring parents was the 5th commandment in the Decalogue. (Exod. 20:12; Deut. 5:16).
- 2. See Jesus (Matt. 15:1-9; Mk. 7:9-13).

MAT 15:1 Then some Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem, saying,
 MAT 15:2 "Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread."
 MAT 15:3 And He answered and said to them, "And why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?
 MAT 15:4 "For God said, 'Honor your father and mother,' and, 'He who speaks evil of father or mother, let him be put to death.'
 MAT 15:5 "But you say, 'Whoever shall say to his father or mother,' Anything of mine you might have been helped by has been given to God, "
 MAT 15:6 he is not to honor his father or his mother.' And thus you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition.
 MAT 15:7 "You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying,
 MAT 15:8 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me.
 MAT 15:9 'But in vain do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.' "

MAR 7:9 He was also saying to them, "You nicely set aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition.
 MAR 7:10 "For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who speaks evil of father or mother, let him be put to death';
 MAR 7:11 but you say,' If a man says to his father or his mother, anything of mine you might have been helped by is Corban (that is to say, given to God),'
 MAR 7:12 you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or his mother;
 MAR 7:13 thus invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that. "

2. Jesus honored parents. (Lk. 2:51).

3. Paul, who spoke by revelation of Christ, penned these words. (Eph. 6:1,2).

D. Jesus' statement seems to contradict other New Testament teachings

1. Loving wives. (Eph. 5:25, 28).

2. Wives loving husbands (Tit. 2:4).

3. Parents loving children (Tit. 2:4).

E. It seems really strange that we are to love even our enemies, but must "hate" family or one's own life.

II. The Meaning Of Jesus' Words

A. The wording of Matthew gives us more insight as to the meaning of "hate."

LUK 14:25 Now great multitudes were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them,
 LUK 14:26 "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.

MAT 10:37 "He who loves father or mother **more than Me** is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter **more than Me** is not worthy of Me.

1. The parallel passage in Matthew reveals the meaning of "hate."

2. It is not a “hate” in the sense of wishing or doing harm.
3. We are to love family less than Christ or we cannot be His “disciple” and we are “not worthy” of Him.

B. The word “hate” is used elsewhere with the meaning of “love less.”

DEU 21:15 "If a man has two wives, the one loved and the other unloved, and both the loved and the unloved have borne him sons, if the first-born son belongs to the unloved,

DEU 21:16 then it shall be in the day he wills what he has to his sons, he cannot make the son of the loved the first-born before the son of the unloved, who is the first-born.

1. The man did not need to literally “hate” one of the wives for the other to be “unloved.”
2. One was loved less than the other.
3. Jacob had a greater love for Rachel than he did Leah. (Gen. 29:30, 31).

GEN 29:30 So Jacob went in to Rachel also, and indeed **he loved Rachel more than Leah**, and he served with Laban for another seven years.

GEN 29:31 Now the Lord saw that Leah was unloved, and He opened her womb, but Rachel was barren.

- a. “When the LORD saw Leah was not loved” - NIV
- b. “And Jehovah saw Leah was hated.” ASV
- c. “And the LORD saw Leah was hated” - KJV

III. The Application Of Jesus’ Statement

A. One must **not let family keep him from serving Christ**.

1. Some may be denounced by family if they become Christians.
2. Some family members would even turn the Christian (believers) over to the authorities. (Lk. 21:16, 17).

LUK 21:16 "But you will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death,

LUK 21:17 and you will be hated by all on account of My name.

3. Some unbelievers would leave the believing partner because they accepted Jesus. (1 Cor. 7:12-16).

12 But to the rest I say, not the Lord, that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, let him not send her away. 13 And a woman who has an unbelieving husband, and he consents to live with her, let her not send her husband away. 14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her believing husband; for otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy. 15 Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave; the brother or the sister is not under bondage in such cases, but God has called us to peace. 16 For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save

your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?

B. One might spend **less time with wife and family at least for a time.**

1. Peter was with Jesus most of the time although he was a married man. (Matt. 8:14, 15).
2. The Bible is silent about the details, but more than likely both Peter and his wife had come to some understanding on this point.
3. Mrs Peter later traveled with Peter. (1 Cor. 9:5).

1CO 9:5 Do we not have a right to take along a believing wife, even as the rest of the apostles, and the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas?

4. The other apostles were also married men (1 Cor. 9:5), but the Bible is completely silent about their marriages except that they traveled with their wives.
 5. Most often Christian workers must spend time away from their families.
- C. Following Jesus did not mean one was to neglect the needs of his family. (Matt. 15:1-9; 1 Tim. 5:8).
- D. Following Jesus makes a person a better child, husband, parents, brother or sister, etc.

IV. Statements Teaching Nothing Is As Important As Salvation - Matt. 16:26; 10:28.

- A. One coming to Christ must be willing to **deny self.** (Matt. 16:24).
- B. One coming to Jesus must be willing to **give up possessions.** (Lk. 14:33).
- C. One coming to Jesus must be willing to **suffer persecution.** (Jn. 15:20).
- D. One coming to Jesus must be willing to **give up his own priorities.** (Matt. 6:33).
- E. One coming to Jesus must be willing to **forgo other things if they conflict with service to Him.** (Lk. 9:59-62).

LUK 9:59 And He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Permit me first to go and bury my father."

LUK 9:60 But He said to him, "Allow the [spiritually] dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God."

LUK 9:61 And another also said, "I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home."

LUK 9:62 But Jesus said to him, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Conclusion.

I. Luke 14:25, 26 is in **the context of taking up the cross.**

LUK 14:27 "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

- A. Putting Him before family is one of the meanings of taking up the cross.
- B. It is also one of the meanings of counting the cost. (Lk. 14:28-31).

28 "For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost, to see if he has enough to complete it? 29 "Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation, and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, 30 saying, ' This man began to build and was not able to finish.'

31 "Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and take counsel whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand?32 "Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks terms of peace.

33 "So therefore, no one of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.

II. Jesus teaches that following Him comes at great cost and no one should follow Him who has not counted the cost.

III. Here are some observations about Jesus' words.

A. **Christianity is often preached as a cheap religion** that gives much and requires little, but nothing could be further from the truth.

1. Jesus gave His life that we might be saved. (Jn. 3:16). He made the supreme sacrifice. (Jn. 15:13).
2. Following Christ demands much from us.
3. Being a Christian means we are to be totally committed to Christ and His kingdom. (Matt. 6:33).
4. We must have the commitment Paul expressed. (Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:21).

B. **Absolutely nothing** should come between us and Jesus even family.

C. Christianity makes us **a people who manifest love to all**, but above all to Jesus our Lord and Savior.

D. **Christianity requires taking up our cross “daily”** and following Jesus at all cost. (Lk. 9:23).

LUK 9:23 And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

E. Jesus did not encourage an unthinking, impulsive “leap of faith” into discipleship. (Lk. 14:28-33).

F. One does not have to know everything or even have vast knowledge to be saved, but he must be ready and willing to submit without reservations to Jesus.

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