

Worthy of Our Affections

BEHOLD OUR GOD

KEY SCRIPTURE:

37 "Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Matthew 10:37-38

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me John 14:6

"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it." Matthew 7:13-14 NKJV

"So practice and obey whatever they tell you, but don't follow their example. For they don't practice what they teach.

"What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you cross land and sea to make one convert, and then you turn that person into twice the child of hell you yourselves are!" Matthew 23:3, 15 NLT

20 "I've obeyed all these commandments," the young man replied. "What else must I do?"

21 Jesus told him, "If you want to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

22 But when the young man heard this, he went away sad, for he had many possessions. Matthew 19:20-22

"When Simon saw that the Spirit was given when the apostles laid their hands on people, he offered them money to buy this power. "Let me have this power, too," he exclaimed, "so that when I lay my hands on people, they will receive the Holy Spirit!" But Peter replied, "May your money be destroyed with you for thinking God's gift can be bought! You can have no part in this, for your heart is not right with God. Repent of your wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive your evil thoughts, for I can see that you are full of bitter jealousy and are held captive by sin." "Pray to the Lord for me," Simon exclaimed, "that these terrible things you've said won't happen to me!" Acts 8:18-24 NLT

"Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." Matthew 16:24-25 ESV

32 "Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. 33 But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven. Matthew 10:32-33

Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Read Matthew 10:32-37, and also skim the surrounding passages for additional context.
- What is Jesus doing to and for His disciples in this larger conversation?
- In context you'll notice that before Jesus made the statements in vs. 37-38 that Jesus also said that He came to bring a sword, and that sword would divide family members. What do you think He meant by that? Can you think of examples of Jesus or others in the New Testament experiencing such division?
- Why is Jesus worthy of the depth of love He talks about in Matthew 10:37-38+/_?

Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- What part of this sermon impacted you most and why?
- Are there any "cultural theologies" that you've had to work through as you've grown in your "biblical theology," and if so, how did you make that transition?
- Can you explain the difference between the "desperate, insecure Christianity" and the "desperate, confident Christianity" Pastor Jeff was talking about in this message?
- Why are conversations like the one from Matthew 10 so important for us and "desperate, confident Christianity" as a whole?
- In contrast to the level of love Jesus expects in Matthew 10, this message speaks into the idea of people having an abusive attitude toward Jesus. What is the difference between going to God for help, miracles, venting, etc. and having an abusive attitude toward Jesus?
- So far, we have discussed three major challenges to loving Jesus well. Let's move on from there with the two points on how to love Jesus well. With the sermon as context, what are some ways you can or will start to "give Jesus the good stuff" and what does it mean to "give a little PDA?"

Start Praying. Pray this prayer in your own words with your group.

Our Savior, Jesus, thank you for leaving the halls of Heaven to walk the streets of earth and to teach us how to walk righteously in this life. Thank you for teaching the challenging things that are hard to hear. We pray that we can have hearts to receive difficult truths well, and the discipline to live them out. Help us to love you well, oh Lord our God! That is the desire of our heart, and if it is not change our heart to make it so! In Jesus, powerful name we ask all of this, amen!

Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Think about the challenging conversation Jesus had with His disciples and that we've had as a church because of it. Grow from it by making one positive change in your relationship with Jesus because of it. Own it. Write it down. Make yourself accountable to someone about it. Be thoughtful of it. "Loving Jesus well" is one of the most important conversations people are capable of having.