

Matt 12:1-8

12:1 At that time Jesus went on the sabbath day through the corn; and his disciples were an hungred, and began to pluck the ears of corn, and to eat.

2 But when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day.

3 But he said unto them, Have ye not read what David did, when he was an hungred, and they that were with him;

4 How he entered into the house of God, and did eat the shewbread, which was not lawful for him to eat, neither for them which were with him, but only for the priests?

5 Or have ye not read in the law, how that on the sabbath days the priests in the temple profane the sabbath, and are blameless?

6 But I say unto you, That in this place is one greater than the temple.

7 But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless.

8 For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.

KJV

The claims that Jesus made about himself were astonishing to those who heard them.

What were those claims?

In this passage of scripture, Jesus told the Pharisees that he had a right to determine the rules his disciples would follow on the Sabbath. He pointed out to them that David and the priests in the temple also claimed that right. But he also claimed that he was superior to David, the priests, and even the prophets including Moses. He claimed to be Lord of the Sabbath day.

In another passage He claimed that he had the right to determine the rules for fasting.

He claimed he had the right to determine whose sins were forgiven.

Matt 9:6

6 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.

KJV

He claimed He had the right to forgive the sins of harlots and Roman tax collectors.

He claimed He had the right to determine who would go to heaven and who would go to hell.

He claimed that He would die and be raised from the dead.

He claimed that He would descend from heaven and judge every man for their sins.

Some who heard His claims were so astonished that they asked questions like, "Is this not the carpenter the son of Mary?" Some called him a madman and delusional. Some said he must be a drunk. Others said that he represented Satan. Jesus inspired such hatred by His claims that some wanted him dead.

He told His disciples to go out and preach His claims. He also told them that if they made these claims for him, they would suffer.

Matt 10:24-25

24 The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord.

25 It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?

KJV

They would be persecuted by the government, by other religions, and by their own families.

Has a picture been painted for you that if you will be an outstanding Christian you will be blessed with the favor of men and be promoted by our society?

This is completely opposite of what Jesus told his disciples. He told them that if they make the claims that He made, they could expect the same response that He received.

The only way to avoid what Jesus said would happen is, do not make the claims that He made!

But if you don't make the claims that Jesus made, you are being disobedient to His call on your life.

If you don't make the claims that Jesus made, you are wasting the life that He has given you.

It is easier to make the claims that Jesus made after you have served someone or after you have developed a relationship with them.

The Holy Spirit wants us to be servants and develop relationships that will open the doors of people's hearts to preaching. We did this during mission week.

But the Holy Spirit wants us to be courageous and make the claims of Jesus to strangers. He wants us to put off fear and put on boldness.

How do you put off fear and put on courage?

Matt. 10:26-27 Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known.

27 What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.

KJV

- He is going to cover your back if you make the claims that He made. Whatever claims you make about Him that are true, He will confirm.

Matt. 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

KJV

- He is going to condemn everyone that does not believe His claims. This should cause us to have compassion for those who are lost.

Matt 10:29-31

29 Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.

30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

31 Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

KJV

- He is going to determine how you suffer if you make the claims that He made. If you suffer, it is not because He has forgotten you.

Matt 10:32-33

32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

KJV

- He is going deny that He knows you if you do not make His claims.

Matt 10:34-39

34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.

37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

KJV

We should expect conflict if we are boldly making the claims that Jesus made. If we are not experiencing conflict with those who are lost, we need to examine ourselves and our witness to others.

Jesus calls us to have His character. But he does not call us to isolate ourselves and distance ourselves from our neighbors to reach that goal. To fulfill His will for our lives, we cannot live a safe life. We must engage the world and make the claims that Jesus made no matter what it cost.

(Francis Chan video).

