

## **PENTECOST 3 (DISCIPLESHIP WARNINGS)**

**JUNE 21, 2020**

### **MATTHEW 10:24-39**

I started the Pentecost season with the theme "Discipleship Beginnings." This week our theme is "Discipleship Warnings."

1. A disciple is to be like his/her master or teacher or leader. This would include a parent, a teacher, a Pastor, a boss, the Governor, the President. If you follow a bad teacher, you will be bad.
2. A disciple is transparent. Whatever a leader (Jesus) teaches or shows you is to be seen and heard. Jesus wants his disciples to reveal what he has revealed to them.
3. Jesus (our leader) says that you can kill the body but you can't kill the soul. Jesus reveals that he is Lord of the soul. So fear not!
4. A leader knows his or her followers. Jesus says I know you. He says that even the number of hairs on your head, he knows, so he says follow me, do not deny me, heaven is at stake.
5. A leader gives truthful and fair news. Jesus tells us not to expect a bed of roses and do not even expect peace. He says if your family actively opposes your Christian commitment, you have a problem. He's asking you not to give up on him. He still says follow me. In fact, he requires it, even if it is opposed by your father and mother. He wants us to work it out.

Today's 5 lessons are harsh. To be a Christian is to have a cause, a mission, or in Jesus' words, a cross. This is tough. He says if you love other things or other causes or even the devil, you are not worthy of Christ. These are warnings that make you think, make you pause, make you wonder what life is all about. It makes you look at the issues of the day and ask, how do I follow Christ today?

Prayer: Teach us, good Lord, to serve you, to give and not count the cost, to labor and not ask reward. Help us to do your will, to be faithful, and to act in love. Amen.