

## **Old Friends of Faith Lutheran**

*Old Guys: Tuesday, at Keys, 9:30–10:30; Women of Wisdom, Tuesday at 2–3, at Faith*

1. *Can conflict be good? Have you seen conflict handled in a healthy way that allowed positive growth to take place?*

### **Matthew 10:24-39**

<sup>24</sup> "A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; <sup>25</sup> it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

<sup>26</sup> "So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. <sup>27</sup> What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. <sup>28</sup> Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup> And even the hairs of your head are all counted. <sup>31</sup> So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

<sup>32</sup> "Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, <sup>33</sup> but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

<sup>34</sup> "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

<sup>35</sup> For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law, <sup>36</sup> and one's foes will be members of one's own household.


<sup>37</sup> "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, <sup>38</sup> and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

### **Commentary by Danny Zacharias**

- Perhaps the most difficult part of this passage is Jesus's declaration that he has not come to bring peace, but a sword. He speaks of divisions, even within families, as people respond to his call. In the first century, these tensions were often palpable. Jewish Christians often faced backlash from the wider Jewish community, something we see in the book of Acts and elsewhere.
- Non-Jewish Christians also faced these tensions, as the wider Roman society was polytheistic, honoring the many gods of the Roman pantheon.

- The honoring of the gods was a civic and moral duty, and Christian refusal to participate was deeply offensive, resulting even in the charge of being atheists.
- This teaching calls believers to release their grip on self-preservation and embrace the deeper life found in Christ. We will find abundance in life if we take up the life of Christ. True life is found not in accumulation or personal achievement but in living in right relationship with Creator, with community, and with creation. Jesus's words invite his followers into this reality—where life is defined not by status or security but by faithfulness to God's call.

Theology Term of the Week (New!!!!): **Theology of the Cross**

Feature 	Theology of the Cross	Theology of Glory
<b>Where to find God</b>	God reveals Himself in the very things that seem opposite to Him: suffering, weakness, and the scandal of the cross.	God is found in triumphant displays of power, majesty, wisdom, and human success.
<b>View of Human Nature</b>	Acknowledges human brokenness and the impossibility of earning God's favor through good works.	Overestimates human ability, relying on free will and reason to reach up to God.
<b>View of Suffering</b>	Views hardships and trials as normal realities of the Christian life; God hides His love behind apparent suffering.	Expects earthly success, physical healing, and prosperity as visible "proof" of God's blessing and favor.
<b>Approach to Salvation</b>	Trusts entirely in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross for salvation.	Mixes faith with human effort, moral living, or "infused grace," seeking glory in human participation.

Luther argued that the **theology of glory** is a deeply ingrained human temptation. People naturally want to justify themselves, display their own righteousness, and avoid the pain of daily repentance. By contrast, the **theology of the cross** strips away all self-reliance and forces individuals to trust solely in Christ.

Let us pray, **Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.** Next week: Matthew 10:40-42