



A Most Unusual Mother's Day Message

Luke 14:25-33

It probably hasn't been long ago that you experienced someone in your life who wasn't acting like himself or herself...

It's probably hard for us to imagine Jesus being like that, isn't it? Surely, we know that if Jesus acted unlike himself, it wouldn't be due to sin. But what do we do with the words of Jesus that don't sound like Jesus? That sound un-Jesus-like?

Today we'll look at some words of Jesus that don't sound like the One who preached a Gospel of love. He refers to hating another, and not just another, but some of the people who are closest to us!

Zooming Out:

So, what are we to do with this “hating people” business? Let me give what I consider to be some helpful interpretive clues.

- 1) Not everything Jesus said is to be taken literally, such as gouging out an eye or cutting off a limb (Matthew 5:27-30).
- 2) What isn't to be taken literally must be taken seriously!
- 3) Jesus came not to abolish the Law but to fulfill it, and would've affirmed Exodus 20:12, which speaks of honoring fathers and mothers and the benefits of doing so.
- 4) Jesus criticized religious leaders who were not honoring fathers and mothers (Mark 7:9-13).

Zooming In:

- 1) The word “hate” here isn’t always used to **contrast** two things (love this/hate that) but to **compare** two things; to love one thing more than another, as seen in the *CEV*:
You cannot be my disciple, unless you love me more than you love your father and mother, your wife and children, and your brothers and sisters. You cannot follow me unless you love me more than you love your own life. Luke 14:25, *Contemporary English Version*
- 2) Here’s why: Jesus knew the days were coming when allegiance to him would bring division to families (Luke 12:51-53), family members would betray his followers to the authorities (Matthew 10:21), and one’s enemies would be members of the household (Matthew 10:36).
- 3) This scenario is played out all over the world today!
- 4) Jesus’ message here, to people then and now, is to count the cost of discipleship. If we are not ready to love and follow Jesus above all others, we cannot be his disciple!

*Jesus' words challenge us to put Him first
above:*

*Relationships (v. 26),
Our own comfort (v. 27),
Our own plans (vv. 28-32), and
All else (v. 33).*

Yet, to lose our life is to find it in Him!

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