

Lectionary Gospel Commentaries

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Based on the Lectionary Pericope Covering:

Matthew 10:21-39

SOLA-LSB (Lutheran Service Book):
RCL (Revised Common Lectionary):

Year A - Proper 7, Text: Matthew 10:5a, 21-33
Year A - Proper 7, Text: Matthew 10:24-39

Verses 10:5a, 21–23: The LSB Lectionary adds a couple initial verses for context, to show that today's verses are a part of his instructions in sending out the apostles to a potentially hostile audience (last week).

Verses 10:24–25: Jesus calls his disciples to follow him as their Master by sharing His profound message and reflecting His servant manner of life. He does not ask them to go beyond that. Seeking to do that is an enormous challenge! After all, if His foes address Him as Beelzebul, how will they address His disciples, His followers, His brothers and sisters? Note that earlier in Matthew 9:34, Jesus' foes had linked Him with "the prince of demons."

Verses 10:26–27: Our lack of fear is due to Jesus' victory over death. The revelation of what is "hidden" is God's work, to whom it is already known. Much of Jesus' teaching was given in private to His disciples, but it was certainly intended to be made public — far and wide. Jesus' teachings are not to be kept secret.

Verse 10:28: This verse draws a contrast between God's way and people's way. People might be able to kill others, to kill bodies — a thought that is frightening enough. However, of much greater concern is the truth that the demonic has the power to destroy both body and soul in hell!

Note: The reference to God's ability to kill both body and soul in Hell hints at the possibility of a fate other than eternal punishment (at least for us human beings as mortal creatures). In the end, complete annihilation may be an expression of God's mercy.

Verses 10:29–31: A sparrow has little value. After all, one can buy two sparrows for a very small amount. Yet God knows when even one sparrow falls to the ground. And do remember that God knows how many hairs are on our head. So take comfort in the fact that each human is worth ever so much more than a sparrow!

Verses 10:32–33: If we mere humans acknowledge to others our belief in Jesus, He in turn will acknowledge us to His Father. At the same time, if we do not acknowledge Him and bear witness about Him to others, He will not acknowledge us to His Father.

Verses 10:34–36: Jesus did not come to establish a Kingdom that was sweet and sugary! Those who embrace Jesus' message and lifestyle will have to deal with fierce opposition from those who reject His truth — possibly even from the members of their own family circle.

Verses 10:37–39: Jesus calls people to embrace His truth and only His truth. They are not to "edit" Jesus' truth to fit their own desires! If they do that, they will shred any hoped-for relationship with God.

