



**Church at Home 15
for Abridge
Sunday 21st June 2020**



Do we stand for what is right or
do we let the world bully us into silence about our faith?
Are we courageous disciples?

Let's examine confessing Jesus in the midst of opposition in Matthew 10:24-39.

"A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they call those of his household!" (Matthew 10:24-25 NKJV)

Are you man or mouse? I have been reading the New Testament reading for today, with different interpretations and doing a bit of research. I wonder do you apologise for being a Christian or do you stand firm in the faith. Just a thought to place in your mind.

PRAYER. As we enter our service at home now, let us pause to be still; to breath slowly; to re-centre our scattered senses upon the presence of God; to forget our busy lives and give quality time to God. (Repeat).

As we commence our worship, let's remember those who are gathering with us in their own homes. Let our pray be for the continued faith of our Christian Brothers and Sisters at this trying time.

[O Lord Hear My Prayer.](#) [Lord for the Years.](#)

The night has passed, and another new day lies open before us. We talk about yesterday, today and tomorrow. Maybe we should be thinking about Past, Present and Future. The Past is gone, and we cannot change it. The Future is coming, and we can all influence the future; if we don't like what is going on; prayer will help but so will action!!; what can you personally do to influence the future. The Present; we should all focus on the present as it is the beginning of the rest of your life. Let's treat the present as a "Present", a present from God to be thankful for Him, to pray and go about the day in a Christian manner; this will then make a great link to the future that has been detailed previously.

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind. As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may he light of your presence O God set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. **Amen.**

Based on Psalm 46 v1 – The Lord is good, a strong refuge in times of trouble, God is close to those who trust in Him. O God, make speed to save us. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Blessed are you, Sovereign God, ruler and judge of all, to you be praise and glory for ever. In the darkness of this age that is passing away may the light of your presence which the saints enjoy surround our steps as we journey on. May we reflect your glory this day and so be ready to see your face in the heavenly city where night shall be no more. **Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; Blessed be God for ever.**

READINGS. (The readings for today are listed below. Matthew 10:24-39 is attached)

Genesis 21:8-21, Ps 86:1-10, 16-17, Jeremiah 20:7-13, Ps 69:7-10, 11-15, 16-18, Romans 6:1b-11, Matthew 10:24-39

The passage from Matthew 10:24-39 is part of Jesus' larger missionary discourse to his disciples. In this section, he talks about committed discipleship in the face of conflict. Jesus said that he came "not to bring peace, but a sword." Jesus' sword is the word of God. Jesus came to divide his people into two groups- those who are saved by grace and those who reject him and are condemned to spend eternity in hell. When people follow Jesus, they can expect to have conflicts, even with their own families. Choosing loyalty to anyone other than Christ disqualifies a person from being a disciple of Christ. Peace is the practice of

refining everything that is not part of God's righteous realm. Once they are refined, righteousness and justice will reign. Peace will realign our priorities and relationships. It's like a fruit grower who prunes dead branches from his fruit trees. The surviving branches will bear even greater fruit.

Jesus never promised us an easy life if we become his disciples. In fact, being Jesus' disciple is one of the hardest things we can do. In the words of Loretta Lynn's famous song:
I beg your pardon, I never promised you a rose garden, Along with the sunshine, There's gotta be a little rain sometime. ([I beg your pardon.](#)). So, is it easy to apologise for being a Christian or do we stand firm?

All through this "Service at Home" the theme has been about faith and especially your faith. In these difficult times we need our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ; to be able to be bold and strong. There is a hymn that states these words:- [Be Bold be Strong](#)

Now let us all declare our faith in the words of The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. **Amen.**

Let's come to Jesus in prayer to give us strength and understanding:-

- We thank you Lord, for Jesus dying on the cross for us.
- Help us to be strong in faith.
- Help us to trust that You are sending others to help where we cannot go;
- We bring before You those we know who are sick or ill or in need of your comfort.
- We pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones.

Add any particular people and situations that the Lord brings to your mind as you have been praying. We bring all our prayers together with the family prayer, just sit and listen [The Lord's Prayer](#).

End your time of church-at-home by saying out loud the words of **The Grace**, reaching out your hands to include in your imagination all those you know and love, who live here in the village.

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NOTE: It is proposed to hold a joint service at Lambourne on Sunday 12th July, with a picnic at 4.00pm and the service at 5.00pm. Parking is available. People would sit in socially distanced groups. (More information as it becomes available).

Matthew 10:24-39 New International Version (NIV)

- 24 "The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master.
- 25 It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!
- 26 "So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known.
- 27 What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs.
- 28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.
- 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care.^[a]
- 30 And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.
- 31 So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.
- 32 "Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven.
- 33 But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.
- 34 "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.
- 35 For I have come to turn
"a man against his father,
a daughter against her mother,
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—
- 36 a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.'^[b]
- 37 "Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.
- 38 Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me.
- 39 Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it