

SERMON APPLICATION SHEET FOR:

Rev. Tony Felich

A Costly Allegiance

Matthew 10: 34-42

January 4, 2026

Sermon Text	Sermon Notes
<p>Matthew 10:34 “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. [35] 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. [36] And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. [37] 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. [38] And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. [39] Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. [40] “Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. [41] The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. [42] And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”</p>	<p><i>Jesus calls us to ultimate allegiance to him—even when it comes at the cost of human relationships—while assuring us that God sees and rewards every act of faithful loyalty.</i></p> <p>I. Expect the gospel to create tension, not comfort (vv. 34–36)</p> <p>II. Examine competing loyalties in your heart (vv. 37–39)</p> <p>III. Trust that God notices costly faithfulness (vv. 40–42)</p> <p>Memory verses for 2026-</p> <p>Ephesians 4:1–3</p> <p>[1] I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,</p> <p>[2] with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,</p> <p>[3] eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.</p>

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Sermon Application Questions

1. When you hear Jesus say He did not come to bring peace but a sword, what emotions or assumptions does that challenge in you?

2. Where have you seen the gospel create tension rather than comfort—in Scripture, history, or your own experience?

3. How can we prepare our hearts now for opposition, rather than being caught off guard later?

4. How can we love our families deeply without allowing them to replace Christ as our highest loyalty?

5. How might this passage change the way we view small acts of loyalty, hospitality, or courage?

6. What does “losing your life for Christ’s sake” look like in ordinary, non-dramatic ways in your current season?

Prayer Requests

This week our family will lift up requests for:

This week our family will praise the Lord for:

HFG Notes & Actions:

Next HFG meeting is: