



WEEK 6 | NICK CARNES

All Scripture is in the Christian Standard Bible [CSB], unless noted differently.

Matthew 10:28-31 Don't fear those who kill the body but are not able to kill the soul; rather, fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Aren't two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's consent. ³⁰ But even the hairs of your head have all been counted. ³¹ So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Christians must _____ who they _____

Matthew 10:32-33 Therefore, everyone who will acknowledge me before others, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. ³³ But whoever denies me before others, I will also deny him before my Father in heaven.

Matthew 10:34 Don't assume that I came to bring peace on the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.

The Real Jesus _____

Matthew 10:35-39 For I came to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; ³⁶ and a man's enemies will be the members of his household. ³⁷ The one who loves a father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; the one who loves a son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸ And whoever doesn't take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Anyone who finds his life will lose it, and anyone who loses his life because of me will find it.

GO DEEPER

This week, read the Scriptures from Sunday and answer these questions:

1. What did you learn from Sunday's sermon? Did you gain any new insights?
2. The sermon said, *"Your greatest temptation to reshape Jesus will often arise when what you love the most is in opposition to Jesus."* What are some things: family, identity, relationships, politics, career, desires, etc, that can become more important to us than our allegiance to Jesus? Why are these things particularly difficult to surrender?
3. Jesus tells His followers in Matthew 10:28-31 not to fear people but to fear God. How can fear of rejection, losing relationships, damaging our reputation, or experiencing opposition cause us to compromise our convictions or "reshape" Jesus? Where are you most tempted to fear people rather than trust God?
4. The sermon describes "mutual allegiance" with Jesus: we want Jesus to acknowledge and own us, but are we willing to acknowledge and own Him? What does genuine allegiance to Jesus look like in everyday life? Can you think of a situation where following Jesus might require you to openly identify with Him even when it is unpopular?
5. Jesus said, "I did not come to bring peace, but a sword" [Matthew 10:34]. The sermon explained that Jesus is not calling His followers to violence, but to a revolution of the heart and allegiance. How do we reconcile Jesus as the "Prince of Peace" with His statement that He brings division? What kinds of division can following Jesus legitimately create?
6. Matthew 10:37-39 teaches that Jesus must be loved above even our closest family relationships. What does it practically mean to love Jesus more than your spouse, children, parents, friends, or other people you deeply love? How can we make sure that putting Jesus first doesn't become an excuse for treating those people harshly or unlovingly?
7. The sermon ends by asking, "What does Jesus need to take a sword to in order for you to be able to passionately follow Him?" What is one area of your life where you may be tempted to reshape Jesus rather than allow Jesus to reshape you? What would genuine surrender in that area look like this week?