

Tough Talk – The Hard Sayings of Jesus

Week 2 - Lifegroup Questions

- Icebreaker: Have you ever faced any persecution for your faith? What happened, how did you deal with it?
- Read Matthew 10:5-8, 16-39, what stood out to you as you read this chapter?
- In verse 7 Jesus instructs his followers to proclaim that ‘the kingdom of heaven has come near’. How good are you at proclaiming the gospel in your life? Why do you think that sharing our faith is such a challenge for us? What do you make of Peters words in 1 Peter 3:15? Why is it important to ‘revere Christ as Lord’ in our hearts?
- In verse 8 Jesus instructs his followers to ‘Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy’ and ‘drive out demons’ How would you feel if you were receiving these instructions from Jesus today? Have Jesus instructions to us changed? In what ways does Jesus want us to demonstrate the power of the gospel today?
- In verse 16-22 Jesus warns the disciples of the dangers that lie ahead, is the picture that Jesus paints here representative of the world we live in today, or was this simply the case ‘back then’? (Try to think both locally and globally when answering this question)
- What warnings and what encouragements are offered in verses 26-30?
- Why are Jesus words in verse 34-36 so surprising? Jesus tells his disciples that he “did not come to bring peace, but a sword” is this true? How are we, his followers supposed to respond to this statement? (The verses used on Sunday were Matthew 5:5, 9, Luke 19:42, Ephesians 6:15, 2 Corinthians 5:19-20)
- In verses 35-36 Jesus is quoting from the OT book of Micah (Micah 7:6) why might Jesus have wanted his followers to be reminded of this particular prophecy? (The verses used on Sunday were Micah 7:2-3, 7, 16-17 in particular, try to think about the hope that that is given at the end of Micah 7)
- Jesus talks a lot in this chapter about the division that can occur within families as a result of following him. What is your experience of this? What encouragement can we receive from Jesus life? (See Mark 3:20-21, John 7:1-5) How can we ‘stand firm’ in Christ when we face this challenges at home?