

Matthew 10:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord.

Analysis

Jesus establishes master-disciple relationship: 'The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord' (οὐκ ἐστὶν μαθητὴς ὑπὲρ τοῦ διδασκαλοῦ οὐδὲ δούλος ὑπὲρ τοῦ κυρίου αὐτοῦ). 'Disciple' (μαθητὴς, learner/student) follows 'master' (διδασκαλόν, teacher). 'Servant' (δούλος, slave) serves 'lord' (κύριον, owner). Both pairs emphasize hierarchy and derivative status. Disciples don't surpass masters in knowledge or authority; servants don't exceed lords in status or privilege. Applied to persecution: if Jesus suffered, disciples will too. If the world rejected Jesus, it will reject His followers. This isn't pessimism but realism—and comfort. We're not above our Master; we share His suffering. This dignifies suffering: it conforms us to Christ.

Historical Context

Rabbinic Judaism emphasized master-disciple relationships. Students literally followed rabbis, learning through observation and teaching. Disciples hoped to eventually become teachers themselves but while learning remained subordinate. Jesus radicalizes this: His disciples never 'graduate' to independent teachers but remain perpetually under His lordship. Servant-lord language evokes slavery: absolute ownership and submission. Early Christians embraced 'slave of Christ' as honorific title (Romans 1:1, Philippians 1:1). Persecution confirmed their identification with Christ: 'counted worthy to suffer for His name' (Acts 5:41).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does remaining 'under' Christ as perpetual learner and servant shape Christian identity?
2. What comfort does it provide to know our suffering follows the pattern of Christ's suffering?
3. How does this passage reframe persecution from tragedy to privilege of sharing Christ's experience?

Interlinear Text

Οὐκ	ἔστιν	μαθητῆς	ὑπὲρ	τὸν	διδάσκαλον	οὐδὲ	δοῦλος
not	is	The disciple	above	G3588	his master	nor	the servant
G3756	G2076	G3101	G5228		G1320	G3761	G1401
ὑπὲρ	τὸν	κύριον	αὐτοῦ				
above	G3588	lord	G846				
G5228		G2962					

Additional Cross-References

John 15:20 (References Lord): Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep your's also.

Luke 6:40 (Parallel theme): The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master.

John 13:16 (References Lord): Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

2 Samuel 11:11 (References Lord): And Uriah said unto David, The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in tents; and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields; shall I then go into mine house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? as thou livest, and as thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org