

Matthew 10:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

Analysis

Jesus' statement 'He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me' demands supreme loyalty. Family ties, humanity's strongest natural bonds, must not rival devotion to Christ. This isn't commanding hatred of family but prioritizing Christ above all relationships. The phrase 'not worthy' means unfit or unqualified for discipleship. Following Jesus requires Him to be Lord of every relationship, even the most precious.

Historical Context

In Jewish culture, family honor and obligation were paramount. Jesus' words would shock hearers by demanding loyalty beyond family. This doesn't abolish the fifth commandment but subordinates all relationships to Christ. Many early believers faced family persecution for following Jesus.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' demand for supreme loyalty challenge your family relationships?
2. What relationships compete with your devotion to Christ?

Interlinear Text

Ὁ	φιλῶν	πατέρα	ἢ	μητέρα	ὑπὲρ	ἐμὲ	οὐκ	
G3588	He that loveth	father	or	mother	more than	me	not	
	G5368	G3962	G2228	G3384	G5228	G1691	G3756	
ἔστιν	μου	ἄξιος·	καὶ	ὁ	φιλῶν	υἱὸν	ἢ	θυγατέρα
is	of me	worthy	and	G3588	He that loveth	son	or	daughter
G2076	G3450	G514	G2532		G5368	G5207	G2228	G2364
ὑπὲρ	ἐμὲ	οὐκ	ἔστιν	μου	ἄξιος·			
more than	me	not	is	of me	worthy			
G5228	G1691	G3756	G2076	G3450	G514			

Additional Cross-References

Luke 14:26 (Parallel theme): If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

Matthew 22:37 (Love): Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

Deuteronomy 33:9 (Parallel theme): Who said unto his father and to his mother, I have not seen him; neither did he acknowledge his brethren, nor knew his own children: for they have observed thy word, and kept thy covenant.

Luke 21:36 (Parallel theme): Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Matthew 22:8 (Parallel theme): Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.

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