

## First Place

### Matthew 10:37

<sup>37</sup> 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.

#### *What Jesus is telling us?*

##### 1. It is possible for us to live in a way that is unworthy of Christ.

- Notice that Jesus isn't declaring a punishment here, he isn't saying if you don't love me more than your family then...
- Instead he simply says that it is possible for us to live in a way that is unworthy of Him...
- This is HUGE though!

##### 2. Sometimes we have to choose Christ over something dear to us.

- Sometimes these are legitimate things we are called to let fall aside for the sake of following Christ.
- Sometimes they are obvious because it is difficult or impossible to serve Christ, sometimes they are subtle, taking our time, energy or enthusiasm out of our higher calling.

#### **The BIG IDEA:**

There is only one place Christ is willing to hold in our lives: the first.

- 21<sup>st</sup> century North Americans are good at compartmentalizing their lives. We separate family time and "me" time, work weeks from weekends, everyday dinnerware and the fancy stuff we never use...
- Christ never intended to be a compartment in our lives.
- He didn't come to die on the cross so that he can become a part of our lives... he doesn't want to be PART of our lives, he wants our entire lives to be dedicated to Him!

### Luke 14:26

<sup>26</sup> "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.

- We should HATE anything that pulls us away from Christ.
- Every decision we make, everything we do is meant to glorify God – be intentional. Where you work, who you marry, what you do in your spare time, it's all intentional! (or should be)

## *How do we get there?*

### 1. Believe in His love for you.

#### **1 John 4:19**

<sup>19</sup> We love because he first loved us.

- There is something about understanding Christ's love for us, that expands our hearts capacity to love him.
- The more we love him, the more inclined we are to choose him over the other things that could occupy our lives.

#### **John 15:16**

<sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide

### 2. Learn all the things there are to love about Him.

#### **Psalms 27:4**

One thing have I asked of the LORD,  
that will I seek after:  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD  
and to inquire in his temple.

- It's like anything/ or anyone else that we could grow in our love for... the more we understand about them, the more we fall in love with... the more we see there is to love.

#### **2 Corinthians 3:18**

<sup>18</sup> And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.

- Beholding is becoming.