

# Community that Disrupts

## Matthew 10:24–39

### Words of Courage

Click [here](#)

### Shaped Poems

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### Today's Bible Reading

Click [here](#)

### Additional Bible Readings

Genesis 21:8–21

Psalms 86:1–10, 16–17

Romans 6:1b–11

**Jesus, you call us to live our faith and travel beside you in a world filled with tension. As you bring peace to the world, you also disrupt our peace, turning our lives upside down. May we be reminded of your constant love for us. May we feel your disturbing presence in our lives as a reminder that we are heard, known, and loved as cherished children of God. Amen.**

The 10th chapter of Matthew narrates Jesus' teachings on discipleship. The call and authority of discipleship precede Matthew 10:24–39. The hospitality of discipleship follows it. In between, Matthew 10:24–39 affirms the courage and cost of discipleship. Jesus invites his followers into a space of discomfort and division and highlights that to follow him involves sacrifice and a willingness to disrupt the status quo. – Secrets will be brought into the open, family conflicts will arise, and lives will be lost. It is important to hear these verses in the context of Matthew's first readers. The disruptive space mirrors the trials occurring within Matthew's primarily Jewish audience. The community struggled with leadership, tradition, and ritual practice issues following the temple's destruction in 70 CE. Those who were following Jesus presented further complications as they disrupted communal unity through their new beliefs and practices.

Jesus reassures his followers that God values and cares for all people and all Creation. While this reassurance might bring comfort, Jesus concludes with a reminder that his message does not bring peace but the sword. To bring about the reign of God requires radical change in society, changes that challenge power structures. Followers are called to enact this change and face the consequences that emerge from it.