

Introduction

- Matthew 10:34-39 and Luke 12:48-53 are the main passages.
- Jesus says that He has not come to bring peace into the world but a sword.
- How can Jesus be in favor of division and destroying families?

Peace of Jesus

- Jesus is named the prince of peace whose birth brings peace.
- Jesus primarily came to bring humanity peace with God.
- Christ's second return will bring a restoration of shalom and peace.
- The false prophets in the Old Testament repeatedly promised "peace, peace."
- Jesus did not come to proclaim things are fine in the world.
- The teaching of Jesus is not easy, nor will it make everyone happy.
- The peace Christ does bring exists in the midst of tribulation (John 14:27).

Enemies and Division

- Matthew focuses on Jesus making families into enemies.
- Luke focuses on families being divided.
- They are divided and fight based on Jesus.
- The sword is this division and conflict that Christ brings.
- The world has not entered into a peaceful utopia based on Christ's coming (yet).

Who Is Primary?

- The source of conflict is who is the most important thing?
- Jesus must be loved and prioritized over everything and everyone.
- The gospel does call us to suffering and hardship.
- We are to give up everything in this life, including our own lives.
- This is a divisive and difficult teaching.

Old Context

- Family households and tribes were central in people's lives.
- Your entire life is centered around the household.
- Decisions are made by the patriarch, not by individuals.
- People care greatly about bringing honor or shame to the family.
- Jesus directly confronts this emphasis.
- Jesus calls the disciples to leave their nets and their fathers.
- Jesus confronting this emphasis would have caused division.

Context Today

- Today the individual is the central decision maker.
- Parental obedience and obligation end after marriage.
- The nuclear family is primary and children are the center of the family.
- Family is still the highest priority over everything else.
- Jesus still confronts this emphasis because HE is the highest priority.

Too Swordy

- There is a temptation by some to overemphasize the divisive nature of Jesus.
- This leads some to view the faith in a combative, militant manner.
- Jesus did come to defeat and fight sin, death, and the kingdom of darkness.
- We do not fight against flesh and blood, or sinners themselves, but those behind them.
- Jesus does confront, but it is not the dominant ethos of our faith.

Practically

- Do not forget that our faith will necessarily lead to conflict and division.
- Following Jesus does mean our family will have to make sacrifices.
- The most important part of our lives is following Jesus.
- The most important part of raising children is that they would follow Jesus.