

4. Jesus' Mission

WEEK 8

15. Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? Luke 12:49-53; Matt. 10:34-36; Mark 10:38

49 "I came to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already set ablaze! 50 But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how it consumes Me until it is finished! 51 Do you think that I came here to give peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! 52 From now on, five in one household will be divided: three against two, and two against three. 53 They will be divided, father against son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

Luke 12:49-53 (HCSB)

49 "I've come to start a fire on this earth— how I wish it were blazing right now! 50 I've come to change everything, turn everything rightside up— how I long for it to be finished! 51 Do you think I came to smooth things over and make everything nice? Not so. I've come to disrupt and confront! 52 From now on, when you find five in a house, it will be—Three against two, and two against three; 53 Father against son, and son against father; Mother against daughter, and daughter against mother; Mother-in-law against bride, and bride against mother-in-law."

Luke 12:49-53 (MSG)

Reflections:

As I read this passage, I think about the countless people who have taken a stand for Christianity only to be rejected by their families. This often happens amongst the Muslims and other Islamic religions. However, Jesus predicted this in scripture. He said there would be division. He also states that "He is the Way, the Truth and the Life and no man comes to the Father but by me." This is perplexing because we traditionally see Jesus as preaching peace and forgiveness. I don't have answers for these hard questions. I do believe that it takes real conviction to live by the teachings and principles of Jesus and we cannot do this in our own strength.

Questions to Ponder:

- a. What does peace mean here on this earth?
- b. How does believing in Jesus cause division in your life?
- c. Does this passage call us to be confrontive about our faith?

Prayer

Lord, teach us the true meaning of following You, even if it means there will be division in our own families. Amen