

NOT PEACE BUT DIVISION

Luke 12:49-53

⁴⁹ “I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ But I have a baptism to undergo, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. ⁵² From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. ⁵³ They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”



BORN OF FIRE

Born Again to New Life

DIFFICULT SAYINGS OF JESUS

Matthew 5:38-39

³⁸ “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’

³⁹ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.

Matthew 5:43-44

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

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Matthew 10:34

³⁴ “Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.

1. Jesus' words are difficult for us to **understand**.

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1. Jesus' words are difficult for us to **understand**.
2. Jesus' words are difficult for us to **accept**.

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FIRE ON THE EARTH

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"Fire" = the fire of the Gospel

On the earth, its function is twofold:

1. For the believer, a **purifying fire** of sanctification.
2. For the unbeliever, the **consuming fire** of judgment.

AN ALREADY-KINDLED FLAME

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Isaiah 55:11

¹¹ so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Kindled fire = The progressive realization of God's purpose/desires

CHRIST'S BAPTISM OF SUFFERING

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"Baptism" = Christ's Passion; A baptism of fire/suffering (blood).

Love for the Father compels Him to surrender and obedience.

DIVIDING LINE OF HUMANITY

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- A. Because of **God’s unrelenting love of man**, He made a way for peace.
- B. Because of **Man’s unrelenting hatred of God**, most will reject it.
- C. That which should **bring unity** among all men will instead **cause division** more than anything else ever has.

THE COST OF FOLLOWING CHRIST

Luke 12:52-53

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Hebrews 4:12

¹² For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

The Gospel cuts across family lines.

Luke 14:26

²⁶ “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple.

If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

- Is He still worth the cost to you? If following Jesus meant giving up your career, or your possessions, would Jesus still be worth it?
- God intends for the Church to form a new family for believers. Am I participating in *His* vision or *another* vision?

If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

- In light of Jesus' warning that the Gospel will cut across family lines:
 - For those with younger families—am I making the most of every opportunity to ensure that the Gospel of Jesus takes root in the hearts of my children?
 - For those with adult children—do I take initiative to make Jesus the center of our family, still?
 - For those with unbelieving family—am I faithfully praying for their salvation? Am I a consistent and authentic ambassador of Christ?

Luke 9:23-24

If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it."



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