
Matthew 10:34-39, Luke 12:49-53

I came NOT to send peace, but a sword and variance, (so Luke wrote), I am come to send fire on the earth...because of Me, saith Christ, houses, homes, families will be divided!

First things first, how do we understand these powerful statements from the Lord Jesus Christ? And HOW do we make sense of what He said here, with what He said at other times in His earthly ministry? And WHY did He say this here?

Understand that Matthew 10 is when Jesus called, commanded, and sent His (12) apostles to preach the gospel of the Kingdom in enemy territory; how do we know that He sent them into enemy territory?

Matthew 10:16

"Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves".

So, the Lord Jesus commanded His apostles (TO GO FIRST) to the lost sheep of the house of Israel; notice what He commanded them about those who did receive them and His message, AND concerning those who did not receive them, nor message of the Kingdom. Matthew 10:11-15, 21-22.

If you're going to follow me and preach the gospel message of my Kingdom, you're going to be hated in the world, Satan's kingdom, which, BTW is full of his followers.

But what about other things that the Lord Jesus proclaimed, what are we to make of other sayings of Christ, which seem to contradict what He said here?

I came to seek and to save the lost, I came to save sinners, I came to give eternal life and peace to the contrite and penitent! Look at these passages:

Isaiah 9:6-7, Luke 1:76-79, Luke 2:11-14, Matthew 5:9, John 14:27

This is not a contradiction, Christ did come into the world to save sinners, He did come to seek and to save the lost, He did come to give eternal life and peace with God to all who believe on Him, BUT... He ALSO came to divide and sever His people from the world and from Satan's kingdom.

Satan is the god of this world, Christ came off His throne and descended into the world, as a Man, robed in human flesh, to plunder Satan's kingdom and to rescue fallen captive sinners!

Matthew 12:22-30

"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the Kingdom of God's Dear Son: In whom we have REDEMPTION through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins"

There is peace in Christ's Kingdom, between God and His people, in the church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

There is peace between sinners, former captives of Satan, who have been rescued from the Kingdom of darkness, and translated into the Kingdom of God's Dear Son!

Christ came preaching the message of the Kingdom of Christ, a message that is (TO THIS DAY) hated and resisted by the

god of this world and by all those who ARE STILL captives of Satan and of the world.

Therein lies the conflict, the sword, the severing of family relationships, it is spiritual conflict between the Kingdom of Christ and the lower kingdom of Satan, all of which manifests itself in human relationships and in families in the world, between believers in Christ and unbelievers!

"Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you", and marvel not, when they are your own flesh and blood.

When the Lord Jesus commanded and sent forth His (12) newly commissioned apostles, He also forewarned them that they would find foes in their own families.

This spiritual conflict has continued since Cain (who was of the devil), who hated and murdered Abel his brother, (who was of Christ). Ephesians 6:12

Some of the greatest trials in your Christian life will come from loved ones within your immediate family, fathers, mothers, and your own children! These statements from the Lord Jesus in Matthew 10:37 are piercing...

"He that loveth father or mother is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me"

Hebrews 4:12: "For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart"

Brethren don't compromise your testimony, the truth, or your faith in Christ in your home, just for the sake of peace. The Lord Jesus is teaching us how about a spiritual reality that we must learn to endure by faith in Him, if we would be His disciples.

Know this child of God, as Christ sent forth His apostles into the world to preach the gospel, so God has called you to testify of the gospel in your your little portion of the world and in your families... but be ready, some of your closest relations WILL distance themselves from you and hate you (because you follow Christ).

They will accuse you of loving Christ more than them... To which I hope you answer, YOU'RE RIGHT! Luke 14:25-33

CHS: The peace at any price people have no portion in the Kingdom of Christ!