

What Child is This Who Came Not to Bring Peace?

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – December 14, 2008

Matthew 10:34-40

34 "**Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.** 35 For I have come to turn "a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law- 36 a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.' 37 "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is **not worthy of me**; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is **not worthy of me**; 38 and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is **not worthy of me**. 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and **whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.** 40 "He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives the one who sent me.

Jesus was speaking to His disciples...

- ❑ explaining to them what it meant to be His disciple
- ❑ preparing them (us) for what was to come
- ❑ to "Consider the Cost" (Luke 14)

- **THE DISCIPLES EXPECTED POWER, AUTHORITY & REWARD.**
To be a disciple of the Messiah was to be a person of Power, Authority and Reward.

Instead ...

- **CHRIST PROMISED DISCORD, HOSTILITY & PERSECUTION.**
Discord was not the Purpose of Christ's coming,
rather one of the Effects of His coming.

The Wickedness of men, not the Message of the gospel itself,
is the Cause of the Hostility.

There can be **NO unity** for Christians outside of Christ.

To be outside of Christ is to be **opposed** to Christ.

And to be in opposition to Christ **eliminates** the possibility of spiritual **unity**.

To choose to follow Christ may very well cost us dearly.

WHY DOES BEING A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST COST SO MUCH?

Because of His **Radical Message!**

- **JESUS DECLARED THAT HE MUST COME FIRST**

v. 37-38 If you love your...

Parents more you're "Not worthy of me." "Cannot be my disciple"

Children more you're "Not worthy of me." "Cannot be my disciple"

Life more you're "Not worthy of me." "Cannot be my disciple"

Whoever we love most, we seek most to **please**.

Whoever we love most, has our **heart**.

Who has our heart? Man? Career? Stuff? Hobbies? CHRIST OR MAN?

Christ said it must be Him!

Now that's RADICAL!

- **JESUS DECLARED THAT HE IS THE ONLY WAY TO ETERNAL LIFE**

In Christ we exchange **Temporary** for **Eternal**.

v. 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and **whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.**

John 14:6

Jesus answered, "**I am the way** and the truth and the life. **No one comes to the Father except through me.**

Acts 4:12

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

To the Jews, it was all about the following the **Law**...

Therefore Christ's message was not received well.

Today in our culture, it's all about **tolerance** and **inclusiveness**...

Therefore Christ's message is not received well.

Now that's RADICAL!

Christ has the same message for those of us today interested in following Him...

"Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth.

I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.

CONSIDER THE COSTS!