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## I Have Not Come to Bring Peace, but a Sword

*By Derek Kiser on December 7, 2021*

**READING:** Matthew 10

Is this what I signed up for? This chapter does not paint a pleasant picture of what may be required to be a follower of Christ. Jesus picked the 12 disciples, called them to himself, then sent them out. Before he sent them out, he had some conversations with them about how to act and how they would be received. Did Jesus say everyone would love them and accept God's truth for their lives? No, that is opposite of what He said. I think sometimes in the United States we feel we will never, or should never, be persecuted for our faith, but it sounds like there will be a lot of trouble for believers. Jesus helped those around him to be aware of the costs in verses 18-22.

Verses 34-39 are particularly difficult. You have heard the phrase, "Those are fighting words." The words, "I have not come to bring peace but a sword," are about as close as you get to fighting words in the Bible. Jesus did not say everything would go well, even within our own families. The gospel is divisive, and God's Word can cause division between those who follow God's Word and those who do not. I want to be clear here, I do not think we should be jerks or look for fights within our families. No need, they will come. When your daughter or son comes home from college with their same-sex friend and wants to pursue a relationship with them, there will be trouble. When your son wants his girlfriend to spend the night on family vacation and share a room with her, there will be trouble. When your sister-in-law thinks all religions lead to God and John 14:6 says that is just not true, there will be trouble.

There will come a day and a topic where God has already drawn a line for us that cannot be crossed. His Word is clear on many issues. We should all seek God daily because it is not a matter of if, but when, we will have to stand for our convictions even within our own family. We should pray for wisdom to honor God with His truth in those moments in a graceful way to those who attack His truth.

**PRAYER:** God, help me know Your word and be ready to answer with truth and grace when trouble comes. God, give me wisdom and grace to deal with a lack of understanding of Your truth within my own family.

**TOMORROW'S READING:** Matthew 11

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