

The Gift of Peace
Part 4 in Series: The Gifts of Christmas
Sunday, December 22

Text: Luke 12:49-53/Matthew 10:37-39

A seeming paradox: Jesus is the Prince of Peace yet He said, *Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division.* Luke 12:51

Jesus was not some tranquil religious guru who just went around spreading peace and love. The real Jesus was polarizing: The more attractive He grew to some, the more loathsome He grew to others.

A WIDELY-HELD MYTH: CHRISTIANITY IS MORE _____ THAN OTHER VIEW-POINTS

When Jesus came, He claimed to be the full and complete revelation — the one true God. All of our division comes from that judgment.

A _____ CLAIM

Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Matthew 10:37

This claim is staggering because Jesus is demanding to be the center of faith and affection.

AN _____ MOTIVATION

I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! But I have a baptism to undergo, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! Luke 12:49-50

If you're thinking about what a huge sacrifice it is to follow Jesus, you're probably not grasping the greatness of the treasure you have in Jesus.

_____ QUESTIONS

Have I "owned" Jesus in all my relationships?
Am I obeying Him with what's in front of me right now?
Do I have any conditions for following Jesus?
Where I am causing division, am I doing it like Him?