

Sovereign Grace Church

“Peace or Division?”outline

June 16, 2019

Matthew 10: 34-39

In our study of Matthew Jesus is giving final instructions to His disciples before sending them off on their first missional adventure. They are to go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel to extend an invitation to enter the Kingdom that had been promised them from the beginning of their creation. This was to be a kingdom of peace and righteousness.

However, Jesus is spending most of His time instructing them that people will not respond favorably to this gracious invitation....but that instead many will not only refuse the invitation but seek to destroy them for even bringing it! What is it about Jesus' invitation to enter His kingdom that tends to elicit such a strong resistance...even to the point of persecuting the bearer of His gospel? We will consider the ironic situation of Jesus' invitation of peace issuing in divisive conflict during this morning's message.

1. Jesus anticipates Real Division. vv.34-39

- **The general problem of peace and conflict v. 34**
Zech 9: 9-10; Lk 2: 35

- **Following Christ results in Family Division [Happy Father's Day!} vv. 35-36**
Micah 7: 5-7

- **Priorities of “Loves” v. 37**
Lk 6: 26; Mk 3: 21

- **Personal Crosses v. 38**
Matt 16: 24

- **Losing Life to Find Life v. 39**

2. But what about Peace? Does God not desire peace?

- **Scriptures: Psm 34: 13-14; Isa 52: 7; Col. 3: 15; Heb 12: 14**

- **Jer. 6: 14**

3. Making Peace: A Matter of Repentance First

- **Our Deepest Division Gen. 2: 17
Psm 4: 8; Jn 14: 27; 16: 33**

- **Caveat: I Pet. 3: 15; Rev. 22: 17**

Questions for Conversation and Reflection

- 1. What is peace? How does peace relate to the absence of conflict? Can you think of examples of an absence of conflict yet no real peace? What is the difference between peace and tolerance? Does Jesus demand “unconditional surrender”? If He allows a “conditional surrender” what “conditions” does He allow?**
- 2. Can you ever think of a “peace” in the political world that actually issued in a war? What lessons can we learn from this?**
- 3. What about Jesus' gospel risks stirring animosity among the hearers? What should be our response to such animosity? What are other possible causes of animosity other than the gospel itself?**
- 4. Does our responsibility end when we simply proclaim the good news of Christ? What else is required? Why do some Christians say that our responsibility ends with a clear proclamation of the Gospel?**