

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #192

(Note: You can read the online Newspaper edition of this post [here](#).)

Jesus Addresses Crucial Issues in Discipleship

Jesus Causes Division in the World

Luke 12.49-53

49 "I have come to cast fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! 50 But I have a burial to undergo, and what pressure I remain under until it is completed!

51 "Are you thinking that I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division.

52 "From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. 53 They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law." (Ref. Micah 7.6)

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	Speaking to a Crowd of Thousands, Somewhere in Judea
Timeline	October or November (Months 33, 34)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VI: Jesus' Later Judean Ministry
	D. Jesus Minister in Judea and Trains His Disciples
	3. Jesus Addresses Crucial Issues in Discipleship
Title	vii. Jesus Causes Division in the World

COMMENT:

Today's reading shows us the intensity of Jesus' anticipation of his death. He used a verb indicating constant, unrelenting pressure to describe his feelings. We call this "stress." The cross was always on his mind and heart, yet he had peace about it, too.

Jesus knew that both he, and his message of good news inevitably divided people into two groups: those who believed in him through receiving his message, and those who remained opposed to him. Jesus required a response to him; he would not accept neutrality. Everyone is either "for" him or "against him;" thus Jesus created a division among people.

Jesus was not afraid of people's response to him. He longed for a clear, "yes" or "no" answer to his invitation to believe in him. While he continued to love those who rejected him with the same unconditional love with which he loved those who believed in him, the consequences of rejecting him remained for this who chose not to receive his salvation.

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Saying "no" to Jesus meant eternal separation from him, in the company of the devil, his demons, and all other people who choose to reject him. Eternal life in that fellowship of darkness is hell.

These words of Jesus remind us that the principle of "agreeing with Jesus" applies to all people, not just his disciples. Since Jesus is God, his will and thinking determine the nature of all created reality. People may choose to reject Jesus' mind and will, but in so doing they do not change reality, they merely deceive themselves into thinking that reality conforms to their opinion of it.

A person can think and claim: "There is no God; therefore Jesus is not God." However, reality remains the same. There IS a God, and that God is Jesus. Only God has the power to create or alter the structure of created reality just by thinking, speaking, and acting. This is why agreeing with him is the only way to abundant, eternal life. Denying the loving will and words of Jesus is the sure road to destruction, just as he warned.

APPLICATION:

When perfect truth, love, and life made their home in Jesus for 33 years, sinful people like ourselves hated him so viciously that death on the cross was the outcome. Jesus came to divide people into "for" and "against" groups. His death proved it.

Since Jesus experienced such enmity of people against him, we can be sure that we will, too. "Agreeing with Jesus" through our witness and ministry inevitably means that we will suffer rejection by some people, too.

How much division and rejection are you willing to embrace in order to be faithful to Jesus?

Are you comfortable with your current level of sacrifice for the sake of the gospel?

What adjustments do you need to make?