

Jesus Divides

Sunday AM, January 21, 2024

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John 7:40-43 Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet. Others said, This is the Christ. But some said, Shall Christ come out of Galilee? Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was? So there was a division among the people because of him.

Matthew 10:34-36 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.

Luke 12:51-53 Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division: For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

- I. There seems to be a false notion that Jesus will bring all people together.
 - A. Somehow we think that preaching and teaching about Jesus will bring peace between men, but it actually has the opposite effect.
 - B. The preaching of Jesus will bring peace to the heart of those that believe, but it always divides men from one another.
 - C. We expect the church to be unified when Jesus and the fullness of his purpose and redemption is preached clearly, but there will always be some who do just what these people did.
 - D. We expect all our family to be all in one accord if we only preach Jesus in truth and righteousness, but it will divide families, churches, nations, and even the closest of friends and kinfolk.

- II. It is the basic truths of what Christ came to do that divide people.
 - A. The world has a good attitude toward Jesus at Christmas time, because we are focused on a babe in a manger and not on the man Christ Jesus declaring that we must forsake our sin and follow Him.
 - B. When we see great crowds gathering together to “worship” Jesus in this sodomite world we live in, without forsaking their wickedness, they are most certainly NOT hearing the truth about Jesus and the things He said that divided the people then.
 - C. It is the clear command that we cannot serve God and this world at the same time that causes the division.
 1. Jesus made it clear that we must come out of the world and unto Him, and that it requires a forsaking of not only the world’s lusts and pleasures, philosophies and ways, but a forsaking of self first.
 2. The rest of the New Testament expounds on the truth of coming to Christ and being born again and makes it very clear that salvation is not about knowledge, or vain religion, but it is about a new birth, a new life, that the old life is dead and done away with.

- III. People always react in the same ways that these people reacted to Jesus himself.

- A. Some immediately believe and accept Him as a great man, a special man, a prophet, but not as their Lord and Savior.
 - 1. They believe in Him as a friend, someone who loves them, someone who will help them in their troubles.
 - 2. But always at a distance, as someone separate from themselves; someone they can go to when they need Him, but not as a constant presence, not as being made one with Him.
 - 3. They maintain their life separate from Him and go to Him only when they need Him.
- B. Some immediately believe and accept Him as Christ.
 - 1. There will usually be some people who believe and surrender their lives to Christ, lock, stock and barrel, and hold nothing back.
 - 2. These are the people in every generation that contend for the faith once delivered to the saints.
 - 3. These are those who lay down their lives for his sake. (1 John 3:16)
 - 4. These are those who loved not their lives unto death. (Revelation 12:11)
 - 5. These are the overcomers; those that mortify their members on earth; who come out from among the world and are separate; who are conformed to the image of his Son.
 - 6.
- C. Others want to question and argue about whether He really is who He claims to be, and who some people say He is, and if He has the right and authority to demand such things from them.
 - 1. These are the scribes who set themselves against Jesus and his claims, and have the ear of the people because of their knowledge and education.
 - 2. These are those old moss-backs in the churches who have never been right with God, but who have squatted in the church long enough to have some say-so.
 - 3. These are those preachers and pastors and evangelists who have never been truly delivered from their own sin and self, teaching others only what they know from their own experience.
- D. There are others who know a lot of Scripture in their carnal minds and they immediately dismiss his demands as irrelevant, unnecessary, and unfounded, because they have already formed in their minds a concept of Christ that does not agree with what He is saying to them.
 - 1. These are the Pharisees and the Sadducees.
 - 2. Neither is really concerned about what happens after death, but only the here and now, and keeping the law.
 - 3. These are those who believe good people go to heaven and bad people go to hell, and it is up to them to decide who is good and who is bad.
 - 4. These are those who despise dominion and will not have this man rule over them, they are self-righteous and will make up their own minds about what is right and wrong, and they will use Scripture to back up their carnal and selfish ways.

IV. We would be wise to learn to recognize this truth as it plays out in front of our eyes.

- A. In our family, and among our own children.
- B. As a church going forward and trying reach the lost in this last generation.
- C. In our dealings with other people and our testimony before them about Christ.
- D. We must always remember that the truth about Jesus and what it means to be his will always divide people, and it will always bring the true people of God together.