

Jesus, Prince of Division? | Luke 12:49-52

Sermon Discussion Participant Guide

Purpose of Discussion: To understand and hold the tension that Jesus' coming brings division and peace.

Icebreaker: What is a favorite movie you have seen where someone is fighting injustice? What was the injustice they were fighting?

Discussion

1. Without being too political or prideful toward others, list out ways we humans are making a mess of the world? Is there a movie, a book, or even a news story that has made you feel the ugliness of what humans are capable of?

Transition: People often ask, "If God exists, why would he allow such injustice?" Dave mentioned in his sermon that God bringing justice to the world would be good news for the world, but bad news for us as the ultimate source of injustice in the world because we all contribute to injustices in the world. What if God does have a plan to deal with injustice?

Read:

[Luke 12:49-52](#)

⁴⁹ "I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ But I have a baptism to undergo, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think 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."

2. How has Jesus come to bring fire to the earth? Why is it not kindled?

THE **crossing** **small groups**

Read:

Isaiah 53:5

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.

Galatians 2:20

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

3. According to Luke 12:50 and these verses, what has Jesus done to save us from the purifying fire?

Read:

Romans 8:21

²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

Revelation 21:4-5

⁴ 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.' ⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

1 John 3:2

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

4. What will we who have trusted in Jesus and the world be like after Jesus' fire has brought about that purification?
5. How does Jesus' coming and his message bring division?

THE **crossing** **small groups**

Read:

[John 16:33](#)

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

6. How can we hold the tension between Jesus coming to bring division and coming to bring peace?

Sharing and Prayer:

Perhaps, someone has come to mind that you know who is not at peace with God. Have people pray silently for that person, then close in a prayer for all of us that we would be faithful to love and persuade those who don't yet believe and that we would persevere in our allegiance towards Jesus until the end.