

Jesus Came To Bring A Sword

(Matthew 10:34)

All Scriptures NASB 1995 unless otherwise noted.

Jesus Came To Bring A Sword

“Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.”
(Matthew 10:34)

Background

- Twelve were selected to be apostles.
Matthew 10:1-4
- They were told how to conduct themselves.
Matthew 10:5-15
- Jesus warned them how they would be treated.
Matthew 10:16-23

Background

- Jesus encouraged them ... Men had despised Him, and so they would also hate His servants.
John 15:18-25
 - Hated “without a cause.” **John 15:25**
 - Brother shall deliver up brother.
“Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.”
(Matthew 10:21-22)

Background

- Jesus told them to not be afraid.
“Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.”
(Matthew 10:28-31)

Background

- Jesus came to cause division.
“Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.”
(Matthew 10:34)
- Do you suppose that I came to grant peace on earth? I tell you, no, but rather division; for from now on five members in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three. 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.”
(Luke 12:51-53)

Historically, the Coming of Christ Brought A Sword

- Jesus was persecuted from the beginning:

“Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him.’” **(Matthew 2:13)**

Historically, the Coming of Christ Brought A Sword

- “And all the people in the synagogue were filled with rage as they heard these things; and they got up and drove Him out of the city, and led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city had been built, in order to throw Him down the cliff.” **(Luke 4:28-29)**
- “But they themselves were filled with rage, and discussed together what they might do to Jesus.” **(Luke 6:11)**
- “The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’” **(Luke 7:34)**

Historically, the Coming of Christ Brought A Sword

- “But some of them said, ‘He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons.’” **(Luke 11:15)**
- “When He left there, the scribes and the Pharisees began to be very hostile and to question Him closely on many subjects, plotting against Him to catch Him in something He might say.” **(Luke 11:53-54)**
- “Just at that time some Pharisees approached, saying to Him, ‘Go away, leave here, for Herod wants to kill You.’” **(Luke 13:31)**

Historically, the Coming of Christ Brought A Sword

- “But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘We do not want this man to reign over us.’” **(Luke 19:14)**
- “And He was teaching daily in the temple; but the chief priests and the scribes and the leading men among the people were trying to destroy Him, and they could not find anything that they might do, for all the people were hanging on to every word He said.” **(Luke 19:47-48)**
- “So they watched Him, and sent spies who pretended to be righteous, in order that they might catch Him in some statement, so that they could deliver Him to the rule and the authority of the governor.” **(Luke 20:20)**

Historically, the Coming of Christ Brought A Sword

- “The chief priests and the scribes were seeking how they might put Him to death; for they were afraid of the people. And Satan entered into Judas who was called Iscariot, belonging to the number of the twelve. And he went away and discussed with the chief priests and officers how he might betray Him to them. They were glad and agreed to give him money.” **(Luke 22:2-5)**

Historically, the Coming of Christ Brought A Sword

- “Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders who had come against Him, ‘Have you come out with swords and clubs as you would against a robber? While I was with you daily in the temple, you did not lay hands on Me; but this hour and the power of darkness are yours.’” **(Luke 22:52-53)**

Historically, the Coming of Christ Brought A Sword

■ “Now the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking Him and beating Him, and they blindfolded Him and were asking Him, saying, ‘Prophesy, who is the one who hit You?’ And they were saying many other things against Him, blaspheming.” **(Luke 22:63-65)**

Historically, the Coming of Christ Brought A Sword

■ “And Herod with his soldiers, after treating Him with contempt and mocking Him, dressed Him in a gorgeous robe and sent Him back to Pilate.” **(Luke 23:11)**

■ “But they were insistent, with loud voices asking that He be crucified. And their voices began to prevail. And Pilate pronounced sentence that their demand be granted.” **(Luke 23:23-24)**

Historically, the Coming of Christ Brought A Sword

■ The persecutions of the Lord were central to the preaching of the apostles.
“... this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.” **(Acts 2:23)**

“But when Peter saw this, he replied to the people, ‘Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this, or why do you gaze at us, as if by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus, the one whom you delivered and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him. But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, but put to death the Prince of life, the one whom God raised from the dead, a fact to which we are witnesses.’” **(Acts 3:12-15)**

Historically, the Coming of Christ Brought A Sword

■ The persecutions of the Lord were central to the preaching of the apostles.
“For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur. And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence ...” **(Acts 4:27-29)**

“Which one of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become ...” **(Acts 7:52)**

Historically, the Coming of Christ Brought A Sword

■ The persecutions of the Lord were central to the preaching of the apostles.
“For those who live in Jerusalem, and their rulers, recognizing neither Him nor the utterances of the prophets which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled these by condemning Him. And though they found no ground for putting Him to death, they asked Pilate that He be executed. When they had carried out all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the cross and laid Him in a tomb.” **(Acts 13:27-29)**

“Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.” **(1 Peter 4:1-2)**

Historically, the Coming of Christ Brought A Sword

■ The persecutions of the Lord are central to the teaching of the New Testament writers.
“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” **(Hebrews 12:1-3)**

Historically, the Coming of Christ Brought A Sword

- As the Lord had prophesied, His apostles were also persecuted.

“They took his advice; and after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and then released them.” **(Acts 5:40)**

“For, I think, God has exhibited us apostles last of all, as men condemned to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.”

(1 Corinthians 4:9)

Historically, the Coming of Christ Brought A Sword

- The apostles were persecuted.

“... we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.” **(2 Corinthians 4:8-10)**

“... but in everything commanding ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses ...” **(2 Corinthians 6:4)**

“... by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report; regarded as deceivers and yet true ...” **(2 Corinthians 6:8)**

Historically, the Coming of Christ Brought A Sword

- The apostles were persecuted.

“From now on let no one cause trouble for me, for I bear on my body the brand-marks of Jesus.” **(Galatians 6:17)**

“Are they servants of Christ? – I speak as if insane – I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death. Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.” **(2 Corinthians 11:23-27)**

Historically, the Coming of Christ Brought A Sword

- The apostles were persecuted.

“Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God ...” **(2 Timothy 1:8)**

“For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.” **(2 Timothy 1:12)**

“Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.” **(2 Timothy 3:12)**

Historically, the Coming of Christ Brought A Sword

- The Cost of Being a Disciple of Jesus Christ

- Stephen was stoned. **Acts 7:59**
- James was beheaded. **Acts 12:1-2**
- Peter was imprisoned. **Acts 12:3-5**
- Antipas was killed. **Revelation 2:13**

- Persecutions Prophesied by Jesus John 16:2

- Blessed are the Persecuted Matthew 5:10-12

Socially, The Presence of Christ Brings A Sword

- Separation of family.

“For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; and A MAN’S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.” **(Matthew 10:35-39)**

“For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it; and I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions.” **(Galatians 1:13-14)**

Socially, The Presence of Christ Brings A Sword

- Separation of brethren.

“I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world. But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler – not even to eat with such a one.” **(1 Corinthians 5:9-11)**

“Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us.”

(2 Thessalonians 3:6)

Spiritually, the Presence of Christ Brings A Sword

- The Word of God is the sword of the Spirit.
Ephesians 6:17
- The Word of God is sharper than a two-edged sword.
Hebrews 4:12
- Discerns good and evil within us.
Matthew 15:18-20; Proverbs 4:23; Proverbs 23:7; cf. Colossians 3:16; cf. Hebrews 5:11-14
- It cuts through every part of man.
cf. **2 Samuel 12:1-7; Acts 2:37**
- It cuts through old habits; it opposes sin.
cf. **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**
- It sets a new standard.
Ephesians 4:17-20; 1 Peter 4:1-6

Spiritually, the Presence of Christ Brings A Sword

- The old man will not die without a struggle; he fights against the new man.

“Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin.” **(Romans 6:3-7)**

“Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts ...” **(Romans 6:12)**

Spiritually, the Presence of Christ Brings A Sword

- The old man will not die without a struggle; he fights against the new man.

“For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate. But if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that the Law is good. So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?” **(Romans 7:15-24)**

Spiritually, the Presence of Christ Brings A Sword

- Thus, the heart of the Christian becomes a battlefield.

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ ...”

(2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

Conclusion:

- “Be on the alert, **stand firm in the faith**, act like men, be strong.” **(1 Corinthians 16:13)**
- “And He was saying to them all, ‘If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must **deny himself**, and take up his cross daily and **follow Me**.’”
(Luke 9:23)
- “Indeed, **all** who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus **will be persecuted**.” **(2 Timothy 3:12)**

Conclusion:

- “Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.” **(2 Timothy 2:3)**
- “Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.” **(1 Timothy 6:12)**

Conclusion:

Jesus came to bring a sword ...

- With Jesus, that meant punishment unto death.
- With the apostles, that meant punishment unto death.
- As Christians, it may mean our worst enemies will be members of our own household.
- It may mean internal turmoil.
- Our eternal reward is worth the sacrifice:

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” **(Romans 8:18)**

Jesus Will Bring A Sword!

“For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, **dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.** These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed – for our testimony to you was believed.” **(2 Thessalonians 1:6-10)**

How To Obey The Gospel of Jesus Christ

Hear the Word of God

(2 Thessalonians 2:14-15; James 1:21)

Believe the Gospel Message

(Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24)

Repent of Sins

(Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30-31)

Confess Jesus Christ

(Romans 10:9-10; Matthew 10:32-33)

Be Baptized for Forgiveness of Sins

(Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38)

Remain Obedient

(Matthew 7:21; Revelation 2:10b)