

March 16, 2014

“Jesus Christ: Fire Starter, Disturber of the Peace”

Luke 12:49-59

I grew up in the 1960's and early 1970's when people were protesting the Viet Nam war, young men were growing their hair long and people were making the peace sign...

Many equated this kind of “peace” with Jesus ... WHY?

1. He was born with mentions of “peace” He would bring –

To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace." (Luke 1:79 NKJ)

"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" (Luke 2:14 NKJ)

2. Shortly before He died He promised His disciples a kind of “peace”

"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" (Luke 2:14 NKJ)

"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." (John 16:33 NKJ)

3. When He greeted people after His resurrection, He greeted them with “peace” –

Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." (John 20:19 NKJ)

So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." (John 20:21 NKJ)

Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you." (Luke 24:36 NKJ)

4. According to Paul Jesus accomplished our “peace” on the cross – Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (Romans 5:1 NKJ)

I. What Jesus came to do –

1. The fire of revival / refining –

"I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! (Luke 12:49 NKJ)

John answered, saying to all, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Luke 3:16 NKJ)

2. The fire used to refine is not far from that used in judgment –

"His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire." (Luke 3:17 NKJ)

"But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire And like launderer's soap. (Malachi 3:2 NKJ)

For by fire and by His sword The LORD will judge all flesh; And the slain of the LORD shall be many. (Isaiah 66:16 NKJ)

3. Jesus' baptism referred to here was His death on the cross –

"But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished!"⁵¹ "Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division. (Luke 12:50-51 NKJ)

Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him.²¹ And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She said to Him, "Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom."²² But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able."²³ So He said to them, "You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father." (Matthew 20:20-23 NKJ)

II. Jesus DIVIDES people –

"Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division."⁵² "For from now on five in one house will be divided: three

against two, and two against three.⁵³ "Father will be divided against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law." (Luke 12:51-53 NKJ)

1. *This is something which has happened sin SIN entered the world –*

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD."² Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.³ And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD.⁴ Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering,⁵ but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.⁶ So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?"⁷ "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire *is* for you, but you should rule over it."⁸ Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him. (Genesis 4:1-8 NKJ)

2. *We should not expect respect, love or even neutrality from an ungodly world –*

"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated you*.¹⁹ "If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."²⁰ "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also."²¹ "But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. (John 15:18-21 NKJ)

Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. (2 Timothy 3:12 NKJ)

3. *He gives a "peace" they do not and cannot have -*

²² "There is no peace," says the LORD, "for the wicked." (Isaiah 48:22 NKJ)

III. *Jesus wants us to be able to read the signs of the times –*

Then He also said to the multitudes, "Whenever you see a cloud rising out of the west, immediately you say, 'A shower is coming'; and so it is.⁵⁵ "And when *you see* the south wind blow, you say, 'There will be hot

weather'; and there is.⁵⁶ "Hypocrites! You can discern the face of the sky and of the earth, but how *is it* you do not discern this time?"⁵⁷ "Yes, and why, even of yourselves, do you not judge what is right?"⁵⁸ "When you go with your adversary to the magistrate, make every effort along the way to settle with him, lest he drag you to the judge, the judge deliver you to the officer, and the officer throw you into prison."⁵⁹ "I tell you, you shall not depart from there till you have paid the very last mite." (Luke 12:54-59 NKJ)

1. *Here He is referring first to the people of His day:*

A. *He was bringing "TRUTH"*

B. *He was challenging their "hypocrisy"*

Their mask of thinking they were right with God through their own works, a veneer of righteousness, when inside they were full of dead men's bones, every kind of corruption!

C. *Soon He would die and resurrect and the FIRE would be started –*

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each of them.⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:1-4 NKJ)

Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? (Acts 2:7 NKJ)

2. *God will refine us with fire, here and now –*

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, (1 Peter 1:6-7 NKJ)

3. *Or we will be burned forever in eternal flames –*

looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? (2 Peter 3:12 NKJ)

"he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. (Revelation 14:10 NKJ)

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