



WHY CHRIST CAME "To Bring a Sword" Matthew 10:34-42

No. 5827

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The expectations of Jesus' first disciples were that as He was Messiah He would bring peace and freedom to Israel. Similar expectations are voiced each Christmas time as we sing, "Peace on earth, goodwill to men." But Jesus said otherwise!

I. Jesus Evaluates the Human Condition. Matthew 9:35-38

- A. Pervasive physical trauma – "every kind of disease."
- B. Deep psychological pain – "harassed and helpless."
- C. Profound spiritual need – "like sheep without a shepherd."
- D. Great eternal danger – "the harvest." See Revelation 14:14-20

II. Jesus Outlines the Divine Strategy. Matthew 9:3-10:4

- A. Moved with compassion, He ministered by teaching, preaching, and healing.
- B. He alerted His disciples and instructed them to pray specifically.
 - 1. A shortage of *workers*.
 - 2. "The Lord who is harvesting." (lit.)
 - 3. A desire that He will "send out workers."
- C. He called, authorized, empowered, and commissioned His apostles.

III. Jesus Briefed His Apostles About Their Mission. Matthew 10:5-42

- A. Commission details – focus, accomodation, remuneration, challenge. vv. 5-16
- B. Warnings about difficulties – opposition, betrayal, persecution. vv. 17-31
- C. Words of encouragement:
 - 1. Don't worry. v. 19
 - 2. Don't quit. v. 22
 - 3. Don't be surprised. v. 24
 - 4. Don't be afraid. v. 26
 - 5. Don't forget. v. 29
 - 6. "Do not suppose I have come to bring peace...but a sword." v. 34
 - 7. Don't avoid the cross. v. 35f
 - 8. Don't be downhearted. v. 40f

IV. Jesus' Words Applied to Contemporary Christians.

- A. Be ready to be branded a bigot for believing in truth and error.
- B. Be aware that *tolerance* has been redefined.
- C. Be careful you don't give offense even if your testimony does.
- D. Be wise enough to know we're in a cosmic struggle not a pleasant rose garden.