

“His Sword In The Cross”

Matthew 10:34

VIDEO: *John Piper on Daily Radical*

INTRO: How radical is your Christ & Christianity?

CONTEXT:

- Gospel of Matthew on The Gospel of Jesus Christ
- Matthew 10... “the missional discourse”
- Jesus continues His prepping for sending...
- Jesus is shockingly radical in contrast to culture...

BIG IDEA: Christ & His cross...

His Word, will, & ways are His defining
& dividing sword.

PREVIEW:

- **Do not forget.**
- **Do not think.**
- **Do not miss.**

TEXT:

Matthew 10:34

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.”

I. Do NOT Forget

A. Remember the context of Matthew 10:34

- a. Back to the beginning of Matthew’s Gospel
- b. Early in Matthew’s Gospel
- c. Through Matthew’s “Sermon On The Mount”
- d. The heart of Christ’s “Missional Discourse”

VIDEO:

Sermon Summary Matthew 10:26-31

- B. Jesus was radically clear in His call & commands.
- C. Jesus was commissioning radical Christ-likeness.
- D. Jesus was prepping His Revelation 2&3 warning!

VIDEO:

Sermon Summary Matthew 10:32-33

- E. This is not the end, but rather the beginning...
- F. Jesus is still prepping those He will be sending.
- G. BE ready!

II. Do NOT Think

➤ *Do NOT*

- Hear yet another COMMAND of Christ...

➤ *Do not THINK*

- Here Jesus is addressing/correcting thought
- If God says “Do not think” – check yourself!
- Do not assume above God & His Word...

➤ *That I have COME*

- Note the subtle declaration of His deity...
- All are born here but He has “come” from...

➤ *That I have come TO BRING*

- Don’t confuse what Christ came to bring...
- Note the both/and of His “bringing”

➤ *That I have come to bring PEACE*

- He did not bring worldly horizontal peace...
- He did come to bring divine vertical peace...

➤ *To the EARTH (everyone/whosoever).*

- Note the both/and of literary context...
- See need for proper contextual application.

➤ *I have NOT*

- Jesus is once again crystal clear!
- Jesus is once again emphatically shocking.
- Jesus is once again radically confrontational.

➤ *I have NOT come to bring peace,*

- Not cheap-grace, “powerless peace”

➤ *BUT/rather/instead/by contrast* (no, no, no...)

➤ *a SWORD.*

VIDEO:

Jesus and His Sword
(GotQuestions.org)

III. Do Not Miss...

- Today is “Good/Great Friday”
- There is perhaps no better day in the year to walk through this passage if we want to understand what Jesus was declaring...
- When you zoom out and take ALL of Scripture into consideration (2 Timothy 3:16-17) & then apply the full context of this passage, it becomes clear that Jesus is not calling His “sword” a weapon of physical warfare, but rather, a dividing and conquering weapon in spiritual warfare.
- Think about it... there is no greater Divider in all of reality than our LORD!
- There is no greater divider in all the universe than...
 - His Truth
 - His Love
 - His Gospel
 - His Mission
 - His CROSS
- By unpacking this passage in the light and blessing of Good Friday... we come to see and understand the harmony of Christ’s vertical & horizontal “coming.”
- By approaching & applying **Matthew 10:34** through the lens and love of Good Friday, we come to see and appreciate the connection between Christ’s dividing sword and cross.
- By embracing the truth in love of **Matthew 10:34** in the context of Good Friday, we come to see and believe that Christ’s cross is in the very heart of His sword!

REVIEW:

Christ & His cross...
His Word, will, & ways are His defining
& dividing sword.

CLOSE:

1. **Do not forget...** ALL that God's Word, will, & way authoritatively calls for, commands, & commissions.
2. **Do not think...** in ANY way that is inconsistent with the modeling, messaging, methodology, and/or mission of Jesus The Christ (as laid out & declared in God's Word, will, & ways).
3. **Do not miss...** in EVERY situation, our LORD is dividing right from wrong, good from bad, best from better... His cross & His sword are always at work in this world...

May we be ambassadors of both!

PRAYER

WORSHIP:

"Though You Slay Me"

(Shane & Shane w/ John Piper)

<https://youtu.be/WmfgElgdeoU?si=yIa3MX3fj7KEKZ1B>