

Be a Living Example

We've all had a challenging 2020 and there has never been a time where true godliness and maturity in the Christians life has been more important.

Jesus brings quite the challenge in Matthew 10:34-39, "Do not think I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. 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 own 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."

In this passage we learn we must take our cross and follow after Jesus. Jesus was describing, that to be in step with God's will, there will have to be a dividing and sorting of our true loyalties.

When Jesus says He brings a sword, He challenges His followers to stand for what's right in the eyes of God and make decisions based off of true godliness, rather than what pleases other people. Jesus raised the bar when He spoke of setting father against son and daughter against mother. Not all parents are leading their children in the ways of God.

Spiritual warfare often starts in the home, in the nuclear family. Children watch their parents live double lives. Some areas glorify God and other areas glorify Satan. Sometimes children watch their siblings live in darkness, or maybe a popular aunt, uncle, or close family friend.

Often, it's the one who lives a dark immoral lifestyle that gets idolized in a child's mind and inwardly they strive to become just like that person. Jesus lets us know that when those we look up to are living an immoral lifestyle, we are not to dishonor them, and at the same time, we are not to follow into their ways of destruction. This is a key reason why Jesus said, "A man's enemies will be the members of his own household."

Jesus is challenging all to grow up further into Christ and break the generational curses of that specific family. That can't be done until someone stands up for the true Jesus. This means choosing to not follow ungodly actions in those we love. Jesus came to bring a sword, but we are still to love and pray for family members who are not following Christ.

Jesus calls us to not be drug down into the pit by those that refuse to obey Jesus. That's how God calls us to impact those we love the most, not with words of

scorn, but with a lifestyle that challenges others to reconsider their choices. This is what true evangelism looks like and Jesus challenges the faithful to make decisions that honor God in front of those who influence us the most. This is the sword that Jesus brings. Who would you like to stop following into darkness and immorality?

Who in your family or closest of friends could you influence by making choices that honor God, even when they make choices that honor Satan? Who is God calling you to be a living example for in 2021? –

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