



GETTING READY FOR CHRISTMAS “The Sharp Edge of Christmas” Matthew 10:34-42

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Stuart Briscoe

Christ’s coming is usually seen in winsome, warm colors and this is right and proper. But there is another side to the story—Christ promised that He would bring a sword and fire. What did He mean?

I. The Incisive Nature of Discipleship.

- A. The arena in which the disciple functions. v. 8
 - A world characterized by:
 - 1. Sickness.
 - 2. Social ostracism.
 - 3. Sorrow.
 - 4. Spiritism.
 - 5. Sin.
- B. The authority that the disciple wields. v. 1
 - 1. As a representative of the King.
 - 2. As a proclaimer of the Kingdom. v. 7
- C. The attitude that the disciple displays.
 - 1. Refusal to be manipulated. vv. 9-15
 - 2. Refusal to be intimidated. vv. 16-23

II. The Decisive Nature of Discipleship.

- A. The decision to be content with the Master’s lot. vv. 24-25
 - 1. The abuse the Master suffered.
 - 2. The disciple can expect the same.
- B. The decision to confess the Master’s name. vv. 32-33
 - 1. The necessity of personal conviction.
 - 2. The necessity of public confession.
- C. The decision to consent to the Master’s demands. vv. 37-39
 - 1. He demands the supreme place. v. 37
 - 2. He demands the supreme sacrifice. v. 38
 - 3. He demands the supreme confidence. v. 39

III. The Divisive Nature of Discipleship.

- A. The disciple’s commitment is divisive. vv. 34-36
 - 1. Conflicting loyalties.
 - 2. Conflicting lifestyles.
- B. The disciple’s communication is divisive. vv. 21-22
 - 1. It is uncomplicated.
 - 2. It is uncomplimentary.
 - 3. It is uncompromising.