

## Matthew 10: Cutting Off and Gathering In

**Isaiah 9:6** <sup>6</sup> For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

**Luke 2:14** <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.”

**Matthew 10:34** <sup>34</sup> “Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.

The gospel causes a shaking that is felt by all. The peace that Jesus brings is only for those who enter His rest by faith.

**Isaiah 57:21** <sup>21</sup> “There is no peace,” says my God, “for the wicked.”

What does the peace that Jesus offers actually do? It allows us to be at rest mere inches from the edge of the sword.

**Matthew 8:24** <sup>24</sup> And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being covered with the waves; but Jesus Himself was asleep.

So Jesus says...

**Matthew 10:35-39** <sup>35</sup> 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; <sup>36</sup> and a man’s enemies will be the members of his household.

<sup>37</sup> “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. <sup>38</sup> And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. <sup>39</sup> He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.

Certain things cannot be discovered without taking our cross. On the other side of our trouble comes revelation.

How close can the trouble get? Answer: Danger Close. Spiritually, we’re calling in an airstrike on our own position.

**Micah 7:5-8** <sup>5</sup> Do not trust in a neighbor; Do not have confidence in a friend. From her who lies in your bosom Guard your lips. <sup>6</sup> For son treats father contemptuously, Daughter rises up against her mother, Daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; A man’s enemies are the men of his own household. **(trusted companions)**

<sup>7</sup> But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me.

<sup>8</sup> Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy. Though I fall I will rise; Though I dwell in darkness, the Lord is a light for me.

Notice this: As the gospel causes division in families, households, and close relationships,

- It creates a sense of the need for deliverance, which deepens our prayers;
- It creates a very real sense of the enemy’s desire to see us fall, which deepens our resolve to be victorious;
- It creates a very real sense of darkness in our dwellings, but Light of the Lord becomes sweeter to us.

God does not immediately call us out of this difficult season, but deeper into His presence and comfort instead.

Even if some relationships cannot be restored, God has made beautiful provision for His children.

**Matthew 10:40-42** <sup>40</sup> “He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. <sup>41</sup> He who receives a prophet in *the* name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward; and he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man’s reward. <sup>42</sup> And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward.”

Blood-bought relationships can be closer than blood! Jesus’ church is a family that even death cannot take from us.

**Mark 10:29-31** <sup>29</sup> Jesus said, “Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel’s sake, <sup>30</sup> but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life. <sup>31</sup> But many *who are* first will be last, and the last, first.”

Even when we are cut off by others, nothing compares to being gathered in by Jesus to the family of God.

Are you in a trial right now? You should pray. Are you so thankful for Gods family? You should praise!

**Ministry focus: Pray for Unsaved child, spouse, dear friend or roommate, etc. / Yourself to have grace to walk with them**