



-- **Big Idea:** The Gospel divides all the earth into two eternally distinct categories—those with Christ and those without Him.

1.) Jesus comes to **BRING** God's wrath (v. 49).

- In Scripture, God's wrath is referred to as a fire (Psalm 21:9, 78:21, Isaiah 9:19).
- Jesus longs for God's refining justice to cleanse the earth.
- Jesus came to bring two radically different **BAPTISMS** that yield two radically different results (Luke 3:16-17).
 - One group will be immersed in the Holy Spirit.
 - The second group will be immersed in the fire of divine wrath.
 - Everyone must undergo one of these two baptisms.

2.) Jesus came to **BEAR** God's wrath (v. 50-51).

- The baptism Jesus is referring to here is this very baptism of fire, which is the baptism of God's wrath.
- Not only did Jesus come to warn us about God's wrath, but He also came to bear it in our place.
- The **DISTRESS** of which Jesus speaks is the anguish of this impending baptism of fire (Luke 22:41-44, Rom. 3:25, 1 John 2:2).
- How arrogant we would be to be blasé about Christ!

3.) Jesus came to bring **DIVISION** (v. 51-54).

- Scripture often speaks directly to the fact that Jesus came to bring peace (Isaiah 9:6-7, Luke 2:13-14, Ephesians 2:17).
- The peace Jesus brings is between **SINFUL** people and our **HOLY** God (Romans 5:1, 2 Corinthians 5:19).
- Our main problem is not that we are at odds with one other, but that we are at odds with God.
- Humanity's response to Jesus will divide **EVERYONE** into two categories: Believers and unbelievers.
 - Even the most intimate relationships on earth will be divided in the end on the basis of the Gospel (v. 52-53).
 - In this text, Jesus defines the nature of division on earth. On one side is Gospel of Jesus Christ. On the other is everything else.

Application

- 1.) Be **DIFFERENT** from the world (Matthew 5:14-16).
 - 2.) Expect **OPPOSITION** (John 15:20).
 - 3.) Make sure you make Christ **SUPREME**
 - Our allegiance to God must supersede any other allegiance (Luke 14:25-27).
 - To be indifferent or undecided about Jesus is to be opposed to Him.
- *Are you on the right side of this one eternal divide? What is your response to Christ?*