

PREACHING CURRICULUM



SERMON TITLE: Divided that we might be United

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 10:34-39

“Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

1

REVIEW THE SERMON

Read Matthew 10:34-39. Why did Jesus say that he came to bring division rather than peace on earth? What does the image of the “sword” convey?

See verses 35-36. Where can Jesus’s disciples most immediately expect to experience division and conflict caused by the Gospel? Why?

See verse 37. What kind of loyalty does Jesus require from his disciples? How is this statement connected to his earlier statement about bringing division?

See verse 38. What does it mean to take up one’s cross and follow Jesus? What does the “cross” represent?

See verse 39. What does Jesus mean when he says that whoever “finds his life will lose it”? How might someone attempt to “find his life”? Why does this inevitably lead to the loss of one’s life?

How does someone “lose his life” for the sake of Christ? What promise is given to those who do this?

2

ASSESS YOUR LIFE

Have you experienced division, conflict or tension in your own relationships with family and friends because of Jesus Christ? If so, how did you respond to it?

How might you respond to a skeptic who accuses Christians of being “divisive” and causing polarization in our communities?

3

APPLY THE TRUTH

Why is the Gospel of Jesus Christ so divisive? Isn’t the Gospel supposed to bring people together rather than divide them from each other? Is division always a bad thing? Why or why not?

How do we come to a point where we wholeheartedly accept this hard teaching of Jesus, even when it means personal suffering and relational strife? How can we find the courage and strength to boldly face these difficulties? Why is Jesus worth following even though it is hard?

4

COMMIT THIS WEEK

Practically speaking, what might it look like to “lose our lives” for the sake of Christ this week? What implications does this teaching have for our day-to-day lives?