

Introduction: Our theme today is “the cost of discipleship” in the context of the division and even hostility that Jesus Christ brings...

I. An Important Clarification Concerning the Purpose of Christ Coming...

A. Consider His Gracious Words and Works...

B. What are we to make of His Words in vs. 34?

1. He is the “Prince of Peace...” *Isaiah 9:6*
2. We must not forget the immediate context of His words...

C. The Reason for Jesus Clarifying...

1. Wrong assumptions held by Jews and disciples...
2. His words imply vital truth about His pre-existence...
3. His words seem strange to us...that the Prince of Peace says “He has not come to bring peace...but a sword...”

D. Understanding how the Bible uses the word peace...

1. From the negative aspect...
2. The Positive aspect...
3. Peace is beyond the reach of man...

Lessons:

4. Peace is found in God alone... It’s an attribute of God...
5. Peace is a “spiritual” reality...
6. Christ does in fact bring “peace...”

Observations: 1. The work and place of a prince defined...*Isaiah 9:6 cf. John 17:1ff*

2. Peace, but not at the expense of righteousness... *Colossians 1:20; Isaiah 26:3; Song of Solomon 2:4; Psalm 20:5; see Ephesians 2:11ff*
3. Christ did everything necessary for our peace... *John 17:1ff with Romans 5:1*

E. Understanding Jesus use of the Word “Sword...” The Prince of Peace comes with a sword...

1. It is not a literal sword... *Matthew 26:52; Luke 12:51*
2. His peace is limited...

Observation: We must understand what it is about Christ’s coming that divides... *John 1:11-12*

II. A Clear Call of Jesus’ Disciples to Love Him Supremely...

III. An Encouraging Promise to Those who Love Christ Best...

Application: