

Series: Surprising Words from Jesus about Being a Disciple

Sermon: **Undoubting the Truth**

Delivered by: **Rev. Todd Augustine**, pastor of congregational life

Date: **July 31, 2016**

Bible text explored: **Luke 12:49–53**

⁴⁹“I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! ⁵⁰I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. ⁵²For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. ⁵³They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.” [ESV]

Review and application:

Pastor Augustine said that Jesus’ teaching in Luke 12 and 13 highlighted his burning desire for the powerful, sweeping, visible growth of God’s kingdom. (See Luke 3:16 and 13:18-21.)

1. Pastor Todd said that one of the three implicit questions of Jesus’ disciples here was “Why did you come?” What answer (v. 49, above) does the image Jesus uses of setting the world on fire suggest? (See Exodus 13:21, Matt. 3:11, and Acts 2:3.)
2. The second implicit question (v. 50) was “How will you start your kingdom?” What does the word *baptism* mean here? (See Mark 10:38-40, Luke 22:41-44.)
What was the accomplishment that was both driving and distressing him?
3. Jesus next answers his disciples’ third implicit question (vv. 51-53) with a question of his own. In what sense did Jesus come to provide peace? (See Isa. 9:6, Luke 2:14, and John 14:27.)
But despite Christ’s provision of peace with God for the believer, why did his claim of exclusive truth produce the inevitable result of conflict between the forces of light and darkness?
4. What makes this a conflict that can divide families?
In our own families have we understood and taught that our first love must be for Jesus, even taking priority over our desire for family unity?
5. Pastor Todd’s sermon title (above) is drawn from a G.K. Chesterton observation about our tendency to suffer from humility in the wrong places. What is the great commitment we must make in light of the great cost of Jesus’ sacrificial death for us?
How does what he endured for us “until it [was] accomplished” enable us to endure even divisions that may divide our own families?