

# Luke 12:49-53

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*Necessary Division*

**August 24, 2025**

## 1. Intro

- a. In the year 2000, a young woman in Nigeria entered into the College of Islamic studies in the city of Bauchi
  - i. Aisha wanted to be a good Muslim, and a good mother
    1. But she also longed to be a good student of the Muslim faith
      - a. She would graduate from the College, and eventually become a state representative for the Federation of Muslim Women
      - b. She even converted her living room into a mosque where women could pray...
        - i. Since Islam does not allow women to mix with men for prayer at the community mosque
          1. In her own words, Aisha was a VERY fanatical Muslim
  2. A few years later, Aisha began to suffer from extremely painful migraine headaches
    - a. The Muslim healers all gave her different rituals to perform... different prayers to recite
      - i. And they told her that if none of this ended up working, then she would probably just die
    - b. Well, as you might have guessed, none of these things did work
      - i. And so one night, in the midst of her severe pain, Aisha dropped to her knees in her bathroom
        1. And she heard a still, small voice saying to her, "I want you to worship Me"
          - a. Again, in her own words, Aisha said that somehow, she knew that this voice had to be the God of the Christian Bible
            - i. And this encounter would lead her on a journey that would last the next four years
        - ii. Aisha would gradually step away from all of the leadership positions she held in the various Islamic women's groups
          1. She would begin spending time in her living room – which was once a mosque – seeking God all by herself
            - a. The Lord would eventually lead Aisha to a local church, where she heard the Gospel clearly presented...
              - i. She was taught how to study the Bible...
              - ii. And she would soon surrender her life fully to Jesus as Lord
      3. And then the time came... Aisha knew she needed to tell her Muslim husband of her newfound faith in Jesus
        - a. It did not go well for her
          - i. Aisha's husband ended up taking her to court, where the judge gave her the choice...
            1. Recant from the foolishness of your Christian faith, or divorce your husband

- ii. Aisha did not recant, so her marriage was ended, and she was forced to move out of their home
  - 1. The community they had lived in, and raised their two children in, now turned against her, and threatened to stone her to death
  - 2. Aisha's parents turned against her, insulting her and accusing her of selfishly destroying their family
  - 3. Her husband even burned down her house
    - a. Aisha was on the verge of ending her own life, when her story was told to the Voice of the Martyrs organization
- b. Voice of the Martyrs quickly had Aisha relocated to a place of safety, and they connected her with a new church family
  - i. By the grace of God, both of Aisha's children have come to know Christ, and they now live with her
    - 1. But her parents are still trying to find her so they can have her killed
    - 2. Aisha's ex-husband still sends texts to her telling her to return to Islam or she will die
  - ii. And yet Aisha remains steadfast in her faith, as she states with resolve...
    - 1. "God created us to be His followers, to be worshiping Him and being obedient to Him."
- ii. Aisha, and countless thousands of believers all around the world, are experiencing firsthand the words of Jesus that we will be faced with this morning...
  - 1. Starting in verse 49, Jesus said to the people,

2. Luke 12:49-53

- a. *<sup>49</sup>I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! <sup>50</sup>I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! <sup>51</sup>Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. <sup>52</sup>For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. <sup>53</sup>They 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."*

- i. Clearly, Jesus' sobering prophecy is still being experienced in our day today
  - 1. So, if it IS still being experienced today, then it is crucial for us to understand all that he is saying in this passage

3. So the first question that we have to ask is, what is this fire Jesus is talking about?

- a. Jesus said that he had come to cast fire on the earth, but apparently, that fire had not yet been kindled
  - i. So, what is he referring to?
    - 1. Well, our first thought might be that Jesus is referring to the fire of the Holy Spirit
      - a. In Acts, chapter 2, when the Holy Spirit first filled the believers on the Day of Pentecost, Luke writes these words...
        - i. *<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. <sup>4</sup>And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

1. And by the end of that incredible day, three thousand people had been added into the body of Christ... the church
- b. That certainly sounds like a fire that Jesus would long to be kindled, doesn't it?
  - i. When Jesus was speaking to his disciples back in the Gospel of John,
    1. He told them that it was GOOD for him to leave them – because if he didn't, then the Holy Spirit would not come
  - ii. So this fits the description for this moment...
    1. The fires of the Holy Spirit would indeed be kindled, but not until Jesus had finished his mission and ascended back to the Father
2. But there is another type of fire mentioned in the New Testament, and that is the refining fire of affliction...
  - a. The fire that God Himself sends to strengthen and purify the faith of His children
    - i. Peter speaks of this kind of fire in his first letter to the believers, as he writes in 1 Peter 1:3-7,
      1. *<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ*
      - a. In the fires of various trials, Christians, your faith is being strengthened
        - i. The impurities that still reside in the old man or the old woman of your flesh are being burned away
      - b. Through your many afflictions, God is refining you more and more into the likeness of His Son
        - i. And it will all culminate in praise and glory and honor when Christ is revealed
    - ii. So Peter then writes in chapter 4, verse 12,
      1. *<sup>12</sup>Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup>But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.*
      - a. So this second type of fire fits into Jesus' words as well, doesn't it?
        - i. He himself was about to undergo the fiery trials in his own suffering

- ii. But he knew that the fires of affliction were only just beginning for all of his followers
  - b. And he also knew that, as difficult as these fires would be, they would be for our GOOD
    - i. As Peter would say, they would even be a source of REJOICING for the believer
  - b. So could we also say that Jesus came to cast down the refining fires of His Father, and that he was longing for THOSE fires to be kindled?
    - i. Well, before we come to that conclusion, there is a third kind of fire mentioned throughout the WHOLE of the Scriptures
- 3. And that is the fire of JUDGMENT
  - a. This is the fire that John the Baptist spoke of in Matthew 3:8-10, when he said,
    - i. *<sup>8</sup>Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup>And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.*
  - b. And then John says of Jesus in verses 11 and 12,
    - i. *<sup>11</sup>I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit AND fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."*
    - 1. Although it is not a popular message in the church today, this is a critical message...
      - a. Part of Jesus ushering the Kingdom of Heaven down to earth is the reality that not all will receive this Kingdom
        - i. Many will reject the Kingdom
        - ii. Many will reject HIS Kingship
      - b. And for all who continue in their rebellion against the Kingdom of God, they will all face the judgment of God
        - i. And Jesus would understand this judgment to be a JUST and a RIGHTEOUS judgment
        - ii. For the Father is a JUST and a RIGHTEOUS Father
    - ii. This judgment is a part of the consummation of the Kingdom, so surely Jesus would long for these fires to be kindled as well
  - ii. So, is Jesus saying that he came to cast the fires of the Holy Spirit on the earth,
    - 1. And that he was longing that these fires were already kindled, and the church was already established?
  - iii. Or, is Jesus saying that he came to cast the refining fires of the Father on the earth,
    - 1. And that he longed for these fires to be kindled that the true believers would be strengthened and purified?
  - iv. OR, is Jesus saying that he came to cast the fires of judgment on the earth,
    - 1. And that he longed for these fires to be kindled, for then the consummation of the Kingdom would indeed be at hand?
      - a. Brothers and sisters, I would argue that Jesus likely had ALL of these things in mind when he uttered these words,

- i. And we'll talk about the implication of that here in just a bit
    - 1. But for now, let's move on to verse 50...
- 4. In verse 50, Jesus says that he has "*a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished...*"

  - a. So what is the baptism he's talking about?
    - i. And why is he in GREAT distress until it is accomplished?
  - b. Well, there are two baptisms that we can immediately rule out...
    - i. Jesus is clearly NOT talking about his baptism in the waters, because that HAS already been accomplished
      - 1. This was how Jesus' earthly ministry officially began, as he went out to the Jordan River, and was baptized there by John the Baptist
        - a. That's already water under the bridge (pun intended), so that CAN'T be the baptism that is causing Jesus to be distressed until it is accomplished
      - ii. He's also clearly NOT talking about the baptism of the Holy Spirit, because, in a sense, that had been accomplished as well
        - 1. We have to make a distinction here about the nature of Jesus, don't we?
          - a. We affirm that Jesus was both fully God AND fully man
            - i. He is one person, but with two natures
              - 1. And so in the DIVINE nature of Christ, he is an equal person of the Triune God
                - a. He is ONE with the Father, and ONE with the Spirit,
                  - i. So he has no need to be baptized by the Spirit
              - 2. But in his HUMAN nature, Jesus identifies with us in every way, except for our sin of course
                - a. And so the HUMAN nature of Christ needed the anointing of the Holy Spirit, just as we do
            - ii. This is why Peter said to Cornelius and his family in Acts chapter 10,
              - 1. *<sup>10</sup>... you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.*
          - 2. Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit...
            - a. In a sense, he was baptized with the Holy Spirit
              - i. And again, this happened at the BEGINNING of his ministry, as John pulled him up out of the waters...
                - 1. The Spirit descended upon him like a dove
                - 2. And the Father proclaimed, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."
            - iii. So we know that Jesus wasn't referring to water baptism...
              - 1. We know that he wasn't referring to the baptism of the Holy Spirit
                - a. And so the only baptism we are left with is the baptism of his earthly suffering, which would end with his death upon the cross
          - c. In Mark 10:35-40, the two brothers, James and John, come to Jesus and ask him if they can sit at his right hand and his left hand when he finally comes in glory
            - i. They didn't have in mind the glory that we now know of, when Jesus returns to rule and reign over the NEW heavens and the NEW earth
              - 1. Instead, James and John were thinking of an EARTHLY Kingdom
                - a. A kingdom of political power

- b. A kingdom of military strength
  - c. A kingdom where they would no longer be oppressed by the Caesars in Rome, but where they would sit alongside Jesus, the King of Israel, as his vice-regents over their enemies
2. But Jesus said to them...
- a. *<sup>38</sup>You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" <sup>39</sup>And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, <sup>40</sup>but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."*
    - i. Here in Mark 10, when Jesus speaks of the baptism with which he is baptized, he isn't speaking in the PAST tense, he's speaking in the PRESENT tense
      - 1. This was a baptism that he was currently going through...
        - a. As he was being mocked and scolded by the religious leaders
        - b. As he was being rejected by his own people
        - c. As he was cast out of his own hometown
          - i. Jesus was CURRENTLY undergoing this baptism of suffering
      - ii. But as he says here in Luke 50, there is more baptism to come
        - 1. He would be betrayed by one of the Twelve
        - 2. He would be falsely accused in a sham of a trial
        - 3. He would be beaten, stripped, given a crown of thorns, and crucified upon a cross
        - 4. And he would drink in the full cup of the wrath of His Father
          - a. All the wrath that was meant for you because of your sin
          - b. All the wrath that was meant for me because of mine
            - i. Jesus would willingly take this cup and drink it down to the dregs
        - 5. But the knowledge of all that that would cost him caused him to be in great distress
          - a. UNTIL... this baptism is accomplished
3. In the original Greek, this word for "accomplished" is the word *teleo*
- a. When this verb is conjugated to the convey the idea of a COMPLETED action, it would be spelled, *tetelestai*
    - i. If you've been in the church for awhile, you might be familiar with that word
      - 1. *Tetelestai...* it is FINISHED
        - a. This was the last word Jesus cried out in John 19:30, as he bowed his head upon the cross, and gave up his Spirit and died
      - ii. Jesus' baptism through suffering endured all throughout his earthly ministry
        - 1. And it was finally accomplished upon the cross
          - a. He knew that this was the road that he must travel
            - i. And it caused him GREAT distress

5. Which is why he would then ask them in verse 51, “*Do you think that I have come to bring peace on earth? I have not come to bring peace, but rather DIVISION.*”

a. Well this flies in the face of what we hear all throughout the Christmas season, doesn’t it?

i. Didn’t the angels appear in the skies over the outskirts of Bethlehem, proclaiming to the shepherds with the birth of Jesus,

1. *“Peace on earth, and goodwill toward men!”*

a. How is it peace on earth and goodwill toward men, if Jesus says here, “I DID NOT come to bring peace on earth... I came to bring DIVISION.”

i. In Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus said, “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.”

2. So what’s going on here?

a. Did the angels deliver the wrong message?

b. Did Jesus lose sight of his mission?

c. Or, have we wrongly interpreted the Scriptures in our day?

i. You see, in our day, and especially in our culture, the Gospel is presented with all sorts of extra features...

1. Accept Jesus into your heart, and he will begin to cause your bank account to overflow in prosperity

2. Make the decision to follow Jesus, and he will cause you to be healthy and whole and free from all sickness and disease

3. Ask Jesus to be your Savior, and he will restore all your broken relationships...

a. He will give you favor with everyone out in the world...  
b. He will bring peace and goodwill into your life, and the world will LOVE you

3. But that’s NOT what the Scriptures really teach, is it?

a. Jesus DID NOT come to bring THAT kind of peace on the earth... he came to bring division

b. Jesus DID NOT come to bring THAT kind of goodwill to men... he came to bring the sword

b. For he has come to establish a NEW Kingdom upon this earth

i. And this Kingdom stands at odds with EVERY earthly kingdom of man

1. In fact, the Scriptures tell us that all the earthly kingdoms of this world are really only ONE kingdom... the kingdom of darkness

a. In this kingdom, EVERYONE is by their very nature a rebel and a traitor  
b. In this kingdom, EVERYONE is a son or daughter of disobedience  
c. In this kingdom, EVERYONE is a child of wrath

2. This kingdom of darkness extends through the mountains and across the plains

a. It reaches from shore to shore, from sea to shining sea  
b. It spans from the United States, to Mexico... from Canada to Argentina  
c. It crosses oceans and enters into England and North Africa, and into China and Russia

3. This kingdom of darkness covers the entire globe, my friends...

a. And every single person in this kingdom is an enemy of God, deserving of nothing but wrath and judgment and condemnation

c. But an infiltration of another Kingdom has begun, hasn’t it?

i. When Jesus came to this earth, he began his ministry with these incredible words...

1. *“REPENT! For the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!”*

- a. Jesus would initially choose twelve men to be the forerunners of this Kingdom
  - i. One of them, Judas, was destined to perish, in order that God's plan might be fulfilled
- b. But the other eleven Jesus would hold firmly within his grasp
  - i. And God the Father would deliver them OUT OF the kingdom of darkness, and into the Kingdom of His beloved Son
    - 1. Jesus would secure their redemption
    - 2. He would become the means by which their sin would be forgiven
    - 3. And the peace and goodwill that the angels had proclaimed in the skies of Bethlehem would be given to them
      - a. For they were now at peace with God
- 2. But there is a new problem now, isn't there?
  - a. The eleven who were once traitors and rebels against God, comfortable residents of the kingdom of darkness...
    - i. Well now they are traitors to THAT kingdom, aren't they?
      - 1. Those who had once enjoyed all the pleasures and treasures of THAT kingdom, now have chosen to leave it all behind to follow a NEW King
        - a. These followers of Jesus are now the rebels
          - i. THEY are now the ones committing treason
          - ii. THEY are now the ones deserving of punishment and death
- 3. My friends, we were ALL once fully united and at peace within the kingdom of darkness...
  - a. But now Christ has come
    - i. He has brought division
    - ii. He has brought the sword
  - b. And "from now on, in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. They 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."
- ii. For Christ has called us into a NEW Kingdom, friends
  - 1. He has called us into a NEW family
    - a. And this family is called the church
      - i. The church is not made up of biological brothers and sisters, although sometimes we are blessed to get to enjoy that
      - ii. The church is not made up of biological mothers and fathers, and sons and daughters, although sometimes we are blessed to get to enjoy that as well
  - 2. This church across the globe is made up of people from all nations, all tongues, all ethnicities, all social backgrounds
    - a. This church right here in this building is made up of homeschool moms and contractors, secretaries and math teachers, students, retired refinery workers, IT guys, carpenters, native Americans, Chilean Americans, people of Irish and Welsh heritage, poor, rich, old and young

- i. And Jesus says to ALL of us who are in him, "Look around, my friends... THIS is your NEW family!"
  - iii. And even though a sword may come between us and our EARTHLY family, THIS family will remain united if we remember three things
- 6. We talked earlier about the fire that Jesus came to cast to this earth, and how he LONGED that it was already kindled in his day
  - a. He might have been talking about the fire of the Holy Spirit
  - b. He might have been talking about the refining fires of affliction
  - c. He might have been talking about the coming fire of judgment
    - i. Brothers and sisters in Christ, if we are to remain united in our NEW family, then we will need to remember all three of these fires
- 7. So first, we must remember that we are a NEW family, united by the fire of the Holy Spirit
  - a. Friends, the reason why we who are poor or rich, white or brown, male or female, young or old – the reason we are all now ONE in Christ is because of the work of the Holy Spirit
    - i. This is why Paul would write to the believers in Ephesus, in Ephesians 4:1-6,
      - 1. *<sup>1</sup>I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup>with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*
      - a. Walk in a manner worthy of your calling, Christians
      - b. Be EAGER to maintain the unity of the Spirit
        - i. How do we do that?
          - 1. We remember the fire that has been kindled in our own hearts, through the fire of the Holy Spirit
            - a. Christian, if the fire of the Spirit has been lit within you, then you have the FRUITS of the Spirit as well
              - i. You CAN walk in humility and gentleness toward one another
              - ii. You CAN be patient, bearing with one another in love
              - iii. You CAN be eager to maintain unity within our family, for we have each been given the bond of peace
          - ii. So we will remain united, brothers and sisters, if we remember that we have ALL had the fire of the same Spirit kindled in each of our hearts
            - 1. So keep in step with the Spirit!
    - ii. Second, we must remember that we are a NEW family, united by the fires of affliction
      - a. My friends, we must never forget... we are at war
        - i. Praise God, we have been reconciled to God our Father through Jesus Christ, and we are no longer at war with Him
          - 1. But we have new enemies now, don't we?
            - a. These enemies are NOT flesh and blood – when Jesus said that he has come to bring the sword, he was not speaking literally... at least, not yet
            - b. No, our enemies are the rulers and authorities , the cosmic powers over this present darkness
              - i. Our enemies are the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places
              - 1. Our enemy is the Great Dragon, Satan himself

- a. And if you are a Christian, then Satan has come down to this earth to make war... against YOU
  - ii. Remember, you left HIS kingdom
    - 1. You are a deserter from HIS ranks
      - a. You have committed treason against HIS rule
        - i. And he hates you for it
  - 2. So don't be surprised, brothers and sisters, when the fiery trials of affliction come against you... for you are at war
    - a. But here's the amazing reality that the Scriptures give to us... when we finally begin to see that God is using every single one of these afflictions, for our good and for His glory...
      - i. We can now be united as a church family, in the midst of EVERY fire!
- ii. The Apostles discovered this very early on in their ministry, as Acts chapter 5 tells us that they were all imprisoned for preaching the name of Jesus
  - 1. As they stood before the religious council, they were strictly charged to stop doing all that they were doing
    - a. In that moment, they could have compromised
    - b. They could have chosen to become quiet about their faith
    - c. They could have chosen to disband, and go back to their peaceful lives of fishing and collecting taxes and whatever else they did before Jesus
      - i. But the Bible tells us that they ALL instead said to the council, "We must obey God rather than men."
        - 1. And the council had them flogged in punishment
      - ii. But listen to what Luke writes in verses 41-42,
        - 1. <sup>41</sup>Then the Apostles left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. <sup>42</sup>And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.
  - iii. The early church was united by the fires of affliction, and they rejoiced that they were ALL counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name of Jesus
    - 1. Well, this leads us into the third type of fire that we must remember, as we close this morning
- 9. We must remember, brothers and sisters, that we are a NEW family, united by the fire of the coming judgment
  - a. Turn with me in your Bibles to Philippians 1, verses 27-30
    - i. Just a reminder, Paul is writing this letter to his fellow Christians as he was chained up next to the Roman guards
      - 1. So if anyone has the right to speak of the fires of affliction, it would certainly be the Apostle Paul
    - ii. So he writes to them, starting in verse 27,
      - 1. *<sup>27</sup>Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. <sup>29</sup>For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, <sup>30</sup>engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.*

- a. I wish we had another hour or two to unpack this passage!
  - i. But here is the main takeaway from what Paul is saying...
    - 1. There is a fire of judgment, friends
      - a. Jesus has come to cast that fire to the earth, and it is indeed being kindled as we speak
    - 2. But what does Paul say is a clear sign to all of those still in the kingdom of darkness that we – the Church – will ESCAPE those fires?
      - a. It is our UNITY in the midst of suffering
    - 3. And what is a clear sign to all those still in the kingdom of darkness that they WILL NOT escape the fires of judgment?
      - a. Our UNITY in the midst of suffering!
  - 2. Brothers and sisters in Christ, as we stand firm in one spirit...
    - a. As we strive with ONE mind, side by side for the faith of the Gospel...
      - i. As we rejoice in being counted worthy to suffer TOGETHER for the sake of the name of Jesus...
    - b. As we do all these things, we will show the watching world which Kingdom we TRULY belong to
      - i. And MAYBE, by the grace of God, some of those in the kingdom of darkness might look at our unity and say, “Man, I sure wish I was a part of THAT Kingdom”
  - b. My friends, Jesus did not come to bring peace, but rather, division
    - i. Aisha in Nigeria is experiencing that firsthand as she continues to get death threats from her mother and father and her ex-husband
    - ii. We still experience it firsthand as we are rejected by our families because of the name of Jesus
      - 1. But the good news is that Aisha has been adopted into a NEW family - YOU have been adopted into a NEW family
        - a. This is a family united by the fire of the Holy Spirit
        - b. It is a family united as we walk through the fires of affliction TOGETHER
        - c. And it is a family that is completely FREE from the fear of the fires of God’s judgment
          - i. For ALL of us have been purchased by the precious blood of Jesus!
            - 1. And in the end, that will be the ONLY blood line that matters!!