

## Luke 12:42-53, The Cross is the Key

- ✚ The cross is the key to understanding our passage this morning, Luke 12:49-53. A popular perception of Jesus in the world is that He was a man of love and peace and that He brought a message of love and peace. There a lot of places in your Bible say this same thing, "For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.," Isaiah 9:6 also, Luke 2:14, Ephesians 2:17, Colossians 1:20, John 16:33, and John 14:27.
  - ✚ All these promises of peace have to be tempered by Luke 12:51, "Do you think I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I have come to divide people against each other!" This peace is true for some but not for others. He says in another place that this peace is not unconditional, Luke 19:42 "How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes. Luke 19:42." So, it is not an unconditional, universal peace that He brought but one based on our answer to His question, Matthew 16:15. Can we agree that if your perception of Jesus doesn't agree with who Jesus says that He is, this peace isn't yours?
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### ☒ **The cross is the key to peace and the key regarding the fire, "I have come to set the world on fire, and I wish it were already burning!," Luke 12:49.**

- ✓ It's either peace or it's the fire. "Fire" is emphatic in the Greek, "For fire, I have come." Fire is symbol of judgment, separating or dividing those who will be judged from those who will not. "I have a terrible baptism of suffering ahead of me, and I am under a heavy burden until it is accomplished," Luke 12:50. What's He talking about? He's talking about the cross. How is the cross a baptism? "I have a baptism to undergo," baptism was a common word in the Greek culture. they used it for a lot of things as do we. On the cross, Jesus would be immersed into the punishment that we all deserved for our sins.
- ✓ Fire is a perfect way to divide things: it divides into combustible and noncombustible. Speaking of fire dividing things, let's not forget John the Baptist's foreboding prediction, Matthew 3:11 "I baptize with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not worthy even to be his slave and carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

**Jesus is immersing in both mediums, "The Cross" is the key to the fire. The cross is the key, all people are divided at the cross, "Do you think I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I have come to divide people against each other!," Luke 12:51.**

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