



Frère John Martin

Jesus Christ said:

**"I Have Not Come to Bring Peace but Division"(Luke 12:49–53).
Do you think I have come to bring peace but sword (Mathew 10.34).**

The Mission of Peace

The mission of Jesus Christ was and remains a mission of peace.

At his birth, the angels sang : "Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to people of goodwill."
After his resurrection, Jesus reassured his disciples : "My peace I give you, my peace I leave with you; not as the world gives do I give it to you."

St. Paul described Christ as "our peace," who reconciled Jews and non-Jews, breaking down the wall of separation and hostility to create one humanity. So mission of Jesus was not to divide but unite. The peace of Jesus was never a passive or superficial calm. It was reconciliation, healing, and the fullness of life in communion with God, creation, and one another. His whole life bore witness to this peace: peace that heals, unites, and reconciles.

Peace as Universal Consciousness

The peace of Christ dismantles false boundaries erected by pride and fear. It proclaims one God, one creation, one humanity. To recognize Jesus as Son of God is to recognize in him the universal consciousness of belonging wholly to God, creation, and humanity—and living for the good of all. This vision transcends divisions. For example, from the ground we see many nations and borders, but from space one sees only one earth. Jesus lived from that higher vision : he transcended boundaries and invited people to do the same.

Naturally, such a vision provoked opposition. Those who believed their boundaries, customs, or truths were absolute felt threatened. For this reason, Jesus was accused of blasphemy and condemned to death.

The Fire of Jesus

Jesus also said: "I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!"

This fire is not destructive violence. It is the fire of truth, wisdom, and love that burns away falsehood, shallow compromises, and conditioned loyalties. It is the fire of purification, which consumes whatever blocks God's peace. It is the sword of truth, wisdom that divides and unites.

His mission required passing through suffering and the baptism of the Cross, to reveal the depth of God's love and the cost of reconciliation. It is the suffering to break through the prisons of conditioned truth, prisons of absolute boundaries and to emerge into freedom. It is the suffering of birth pangs to give birth to new life.

The Hard Saying: Peace or Division ? Peace or Sword ?

When Jesus declared: "Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division," it sounds at first like a contradiction. In the Gospel of St. Mathew the word 'Sword' is used. It can be understood in two ways:

1. Historical Context of the Early Church

The radical message of Jesus divided families. Some embraced him, others rejected him.

In times of persecution, loyalty to Christ often meant betrayal in the eyes of relatives. Disciples could even be denounced by their own households.



This painful reality explains why the early Church remembered—or even preserved in Jesus' words this teaching: following him can cost peace with one's own family or society. It is also possible the early church put these words in the mouth of Christ as a kind of answer to the existing phenomenon. How following Jesus divides families?

The Sword of Jesus

When Jesus said, "Do not think I came to bring peace, but a sword" (Mt 10:34), he was not speaking of earthly weapons but of the piercing truth of God. The Bible often uses the sword as a symbol of wisdom and judgment: Isaiah says, "He made my mouth like a sharp sword" (Is 49:2), and Hosea recalls that God slays with "the words of His mouth" (Hos 6:5). The New Testament deepens this image—"the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword" (Heb 4:12). Paul calls the Scriptures "the sword of the Spirit" (Eph 6:17), and Revelation pictures Christ with a sword from his mouth, the word of truth that judges and sets free (Rev 1:16; 19:15).

Thus, the sword of Christ is not violence but truth and wisdom—a word so sharp that it unmasks lies, divides light from darkness, and demands a choice. His coming does not bring superficial peace, but a deeper transformation through the piercing power of God's Word.

How Christians Misused These Words?

Unfortunately, later in the history Christians misinterpreted this passage.

When Christianity was a minority, Christians themselves were persecuted.

But when Christianity gained political power, some turned the same texts into weapons, using them to justify violence against others.

This distortion contributed to religious wars, persecutions, and even the Crusades. The sword of crusaders was like cross and was blessed.

The sword of Jesus was the sword of truth, wisdom, unity. It cuts all artificial unity based on families, nationalities and religions. It brings true unity based on God, eternal truth.

So the intention of Jesus was not to divide, not a call for violence but a call to real unity. His words were descriptive, not prescriptive. He warned that fidelity to truth would cause division, but he never commanded violence. The "fire" he brought was spiritual, not military. The sword he mentioned was not physical sword of violence but sword of wisdom, truth and unity. It divides in order to unite.

2. The Transformative Demand of the Gospel

The peace of Christ is not a "cheap peace." It challenges unjust structures, false securities, and exclusive identities. Choosing Christ often means resisting prevailing customs or oppressive systems. Thus, Jesus did not call his followers to fight wars, but to embrace the costly peace that comes through conversion of heart, reconciliation, and universal love.

Transcending Limited Identities

Human identities—family, nationality, religion—are valuable but relative. When treated as absolute, they cause division and violence. Jesus calls us to transcend such limits and discover our true identity as children of God. When some told Jesus: your mother, brothers and sisters are waiting to see you. He replied: who is my mother, brother and sisters? Everyone who does the will of my father in heaven is my mother, brother and sisters. He also said: unless you renounce your father, mother, wife, husband and children, you cannot enter into the kingdom of God. He was not advocating physical renunciation but relating with everyone as the children of God. The thread that unites all is God, not natural threads of family, nationality and religion.

To live from this identity based on God is to become a peacemaker: one who unites, loves without boundaries, and works for the flourishing of all creation. Christ said: blessed are the peace makers for you shall be called the children of God.

Conclusion: The Paradox Resolved

Jesus is peace itself. His vision unites rather than divides, but divisions arise when people cling to false securities and refuse to accept the truth of universal love. The sword of Jesus removes all false securities and builds unity on real truth, real security.

When Jesus says he brings division, he is reminding us that true peace cannot rest on falsehood or injustice. His peace is both fire and reconciliation. It is the sword that exposes what divides and heals what unites.

The tragedy is that Christians at times betrayed this vision, turning his words into justification for exclusion, persecution, crusades and war. But the true meaning of his teaching remains: to carry the fire of truth, the sword of wisdom and to live as peacemakers, children of God, bearers of universal love.

Br. John Martin
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