

Sermon Reflections

1. What does it mean to confess Christ? What would it look like for someone to live as though Jesus is Lord?
2. Jesus says that he did not come to bring peace and yet elsewhere in the Bible Jesus says he gives peace. How can you resolve this seeming contradiction?
3. How is confessing Christ a form of declaring war? What might that look like practically?
4. What does it mean to count the cost of discipleship? Why do you think it's so important to count the cost? When it comes to the drastic measures involved in following Jesus, how do you feel about them? What thoughts do you have about them?
5. Why is following Jesus paradoxical? How is it counter-cultural?
6. Do you think there is a connection between living like Jesus (paradoxical discipleship) and the division Jesus talks about? If so, what is it? Why?

MATTHEW 10:34–39

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. 36 And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. 37 Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.