**The Sharp Edge of Christmas**

**Matthew 10: 34-42**

Christ promised that He would bring a sword and fire. What did He mean?

1. **The incisive nature of discipleship**
   1. **The arena in which the disciple functions**: v. 8 A world characterized by:
      * Sickness
      * Social ostracism
      * Sorrow
      * Spiritism
      * Sin
   2. **The authority which the disciple wields** v. 1
      * As a representative of the King
      * As a proclaimer of the Kingdom v. 7
   3. **The attitude which the disciple displays**
      * **Refusal to be manipulated** vv. 9-15
      * **Refusal to be intimidated** 16-23
2. **The decisive nature of discipleship**
   * + **The decision to be content with the Master’s lot** vv. 24-25
       1. The abuse the Master suffered
       2. The disciple can expect the same
     + **The decision to confess the Master’s name** vv. 32-33
       1. The necessity of personal conviction
       2. The necessity of public confession
     + **The decision to consent to the Master’s demands** vv. 37-39
       1. He demands the supreme place – v. 37
       2. He demands the supreme sacrifice – v. 38
       3. He demands the supreme confidence – v. 39
3. **The divine nature of discipleship**
   1. **The disciple’s commitment is divisive** vv. 34-36
      * Conflicting loyalties
      * Conflicting lifestyles
   2. **The disciple’s communication is divisive** v. 21-22
      * It is uncomplicated
      * It is uncomplimentary
      * It is uncompromising