**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