

A Necessary Division

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Luke 12: 51-52, "Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division: For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three."

Isn't this a surprising thing for Jesus to say? Here he is talking about making a division between people and saying that it is going to happen. We usually think of Him talking about love and peace and everybody getting along together. Jesus is saying plainly that He is going to shake up the lives of people on this earth. Decisions will have to be made as to whether, or not, a person will believe in Jesus and follow Him, or follow His own path.

The Lord always tells what will happen and His words always come to pass. Peter found this out even when he was sure that Jesus was wrong. People who lived at the time when the Lord walked the earth were divided about Him and his words. **John 10:19,** "There was a division therefore again among the Jews for these sayings." True to His word, there were those who believed Him and there were those who rejected His

teachings. So the people were divided between those who believed Him and those who didn't. Families were no exception as there were those who believed and some family members who didn't accept Jesus as the Christ.

Almost from the beginning man has been divided on many things. The good and the bad, saint and sinner, all were of different beliefs and temperaments. Jesus told of the division that would show what people believed and would be in individual homes. Some would believe in Him and others would not. How true His words were and still are. Some believe all of His word and some say that they believe part of it. Can that kind of belief work? I don't see how it can, if a person is going to pick and choose what he believes. If a person lies to me then I don't really believe anything he has to say, do you? Yet, some say that they believe some parts of the bible, but not all of it.

There is a great division among the nations, and even among individuals, today just as the Lord said that there would be. This difference of beliefs will bring about another division that will occur in the future. As the scriptures say, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." **Hebrews 9:27.** When Jesus returns He will divide His people from those who

rejected Him and refused to believe in Him. Although some knowingly rejected and hated Him, there will be those who didn't confess Him because they put it off and were ignorant of His word. Sadly both groups will be lost and will be rejected because they didn't come to Him to be saved.

As people are divided here on earth so will it be on the Day of Judgment. Those on His right hand will go into heaven and those on His left will go into the lake of fire. Some will think it will be unfair because some of the lost will be "Good people." Being a good person will not save anybody. I have heard some say, speaking of a person, "If he doesn't go to heaven then no one will." The one spoken of was honest, helpful, friendly, but not a Christian. We are lost if we don't believe in and obey Jesus.

I know that there are those who say that there are good people in all religions. That may be true, but as mentioned before being good and sincere in what they believe isn't going to save them if they don't believe in Jesus. **Acts 4:12** says, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." That is as clear as can be and tells us that Jesus is not just a way to heaven, he is the only way.

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Genesis intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

ABRAM IN EGYPT

PHARAOH HAS SENT MANY GIFTS TO ABRAM, AFTER HAVING BEEN TOLD OF THE WONDROUS BEAUTY OF SARAI - THIS, OF COURSE, IS THE OPENING MOVE BY PHARAOH TO OBTAIN SARAI FOR HIMSELF....

...ABRAM, ALTHOUGH A PROSPEROUS MAN, HAS NEVER SEEN SO MUCH WEALTH BEFORE IN HIS LIFE....

IT IS AS I HAVE FEARED! PHARAOH WANTS SARAI FOR HIMSELF, OR HE WOULD NOT SEND SO MANY PRESENTS!

...AND ABRAM CAN NOT REFUSE THE GIFTS, THAT WOULD BE AN UNFORGIVABLE INSULT TO PHARAOH! BUT IF HE ACCEPTS THE PRESENTS, HE CAN'T REFUSE PHARAOH'S FUTURE REQUESTS, EITHER!

...NOR DOES HE HAVE LONG TO WAIT FOR THE REQUEST! SHORTLY, THE APPROACH OF A CHARIOT CAN BE HEARD!

...IT IS PHARAOH'S ROYAL MESSENGER, COME NOW TO PRESENT A CLAIM FOR ABRAM'S BEAUTIFUL "SISTER"! AND NOW ABRAM WAITS WITH A COLD DREAD IN HIS HEART, AS THIS MESSENGER APPROACHES HIS TENT!

JOHN LEHTI

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