

## **A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE**

### **JESUS BRINGS DIVISION**

Luke 12:49-53 “I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

Jesus has brought about peace between God and man. (1 Timothy 2:5 “For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men.”) At the same time, because of Jesus, division arises between human beings and even within families. Some follow Jesus. Some do not. There are instances within families where parents have disowned their child and brothers and sister have been rejected for becoming a believer in Jesus Christ.

While Jesus’ cross brings peace with God it can divide people from one another. The cross creates bitterness and hatred that turns into rejection and even persecution here on earth. This is why Jesus said, “either you are for me or against me. . .” This is why Jesus said “ they will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.” (Luke 12:52-53)

Jesus said, “I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.” (John 16:1-4) Jesus said, “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.” (Matthew 10:28)

Your faith in Jesus may not be viewed positively by others including family members. Jesus spoke the words of today's devotional verses that you would be prepared for that possibility. He also spoke them to prepare you to face rejection of those around you knowing that the pain this causes is only for this life. He has a place prepared for you where there will be no pain, tears, suffering and the like.

Prayer: Jesus, lead me through the difficulties of this life to the joy and blessings of life with you in eternity. In Your holy name. Amen.

Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow His example pure,  
Through the world that would deceive us And to sin our spirits lure.  
Onward in His footsteps treading, Pilgrims here, our home above,  
Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father's bidding.  
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where You guide.

Let us suffer here with Jesus And with patience bear our cross.  
Joy will follow all our sadness; Where He is, there is no loss.  
Though today we sow no laughter, We shall reap celestial joy;  
All discomforts that annoy Shall give way to mirth hereafter.  
Jesus here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.

Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death He conquered death. He will  
free us from destruction, Give to us immortal breath.  
Let us mortify all passion That would lead us into sin;  
And the grave that shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heaven.  
Jesus, here with You I die, There to live with You on high.

Let us also live with Jesus. He has risen from the dead  
That to life we may awaken. Jesus, You are now our head.  
We are Your own living members; Where You live, there we shall be  
In Your presence constantly. Living there with You forever.  
Jesus, let me faithful be, Life eternal grant to me.  
(LSB 685)