



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

Prince of Peace—Flamethrower and Friend May 27th, 2018

Luke 12:49-53

⁴⁹ "I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. ⁵² From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. ⁵³ They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

1. What song or section from Scripture personally brings you the most peace when you hear it or read it?

*"Hark the Herald Angels sing, glory to the new born king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.*

*Hail, the heavenly Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of
Righteousness! (61)*

Silent Night 58.

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt 54.

"A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me..."

2. For what reasons might today's gospel text never appear on anyone's list of favorite Scriptures?
It's fierce, it's scary, it's fire and brimstone kind of warnings! We don't like to think of Jesus talking this way. We like cute, loving Jesus. We like to think that things really aren't that bad, so we don't really need such a stern wake-up warning.
3. How do the strong warnings from this text "break a rock to pieces" in your life?
When I think of any sin in my life, and how holding onto it rather than onto Jesus could separate me from God forever, it is terrifying. "Sin is crouching at your door, it desires to have you!" Gen. 4:7. Jesus will separate between the wheat and the chaff. May I never harbor sin in my heart and harden against God's Word, that I wind up numbered among the chaff that is burned with unquenchable fire. This is strong law as curb, which our sinful nature still needs at times.
4. What pressures do you face as a family or in your family and how do you deal with them?
*When the work week is so busy, what an extra weekend day with no obligations wouldn't do for our family? We could spend so much time together bonding. This gets especially tough around the holidays when family gatherings replace worshiping as a family.

It's certainly no picnic for anyone explaining why a family member who is not a member can't come up for communion? Why do you have to be so "unloving"?*

One of the most difficult things of all can be confronting your family etc...children, brothers, sisters, about "live-in" situations, or any other sin that they are publicly and repeatedly taking part in.

5. Name as many passages as you can where the Bible talks about Jesus bringing peace.
 - a. John 14:27, 16:33,
 - b. Philippians 4:6-7
 - c. Psalm 4:8
 - d. Isaiah 9:7
 - e. Isaiah 52:7
 - f. Luke 1:79
 - g. Romans 5:1
 - h. Romans 14:17
 - i. Ephesians 2:14, 4:3 6:15
 - j. Etc.

6. Explore this concept of Jesus' baptism into death a little more. What comfort does it bring?

Cf. Mark 10: 32-45 ³²They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him. ³³"We are going up to Jerusalem," he said, "and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, ³⁴who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise."

³⁵Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask."

³⁶"What do you want me to do for you?" he asked.

³⁷They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory."

³⁸"You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?"

³⁹"We can," they answered.

Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, ⁴⁰but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared."

Luke 22:39 ff. ⁹Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. ⁴⁰On reaching the place, he

said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." ⁴¹He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, ⁴²"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." ⁴³An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. ⁴⁴And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.^[a]

John 19:28ff ²⁸Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." ²⁹A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. ³⁰When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

7. How can Jesus be the Prince of Peace—both flamethrower and friend?

He fulfills the prophecies of peace as he makes peace between us and God, by taking away our sins. So he truly is our friend and Savior, the one whose joy it was to bear God's wrath in our place.

Yet the warnings of his word still hold true. His word is like a fire that he casts on earth, and it divides between truth and unbelief, between believer and unbeliever. What is divided in time on this earth will be divided eternally when he comes on the last day the earth is destroyed by fire. Jesus burns up sin, period!

8. Who in your family needs you to share with them basic law/gospel and an invitation to come and see Jesus?

For me it's an uncle, the same man who stood at my baptism as a witness and promised that he would help me to be faithful all my life. So the roles are reversed, as I've tried to reach out to him as his nephew and God-son, yet politics, Roman Catholic theology, and indifference have clouded his heart to the point where I don't know if I consider him a believer anymore. The word divides, let me be the one to share the word and invite!