



**Personal & Group Study Guide:** September 25, 2022

**Message Series: DEEP TRACKS:** The Lesser-Known Teachings of Jesus

**Message Title: TRACK 3 - Jesus Brings a Sword**

**Series Intro:** Anyone can sing along to the hits, but it takes a true fan to know the *deep tracks* - an album's less popular songs that get buried between the more radio-friendly Billboard bops. If Jesus' teachings were an album or a playlist, scattered among his *greatest hits* (*The Good Samaritan, The Golden Rule, Love One Another*) you'd also find his *deep tracks* that may shock or even offend you - such as *Hate Your Parents, Die Fig Tree Die*, and *I Came to Bring the Sword!* What are we supposed to do with the most confounding things that Jesus had to say? Join us Sept 11 - Oct 2 as we explore the deep tracks of Jesus.

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This week's DEEP TRACK is found in **Matthew 10:34-39** -

**“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn**

**‘a man against his father,  
a daughter against her mother,  
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—  
a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’**

**“Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.**

What are some common assumptions that people - Christians and non-Christians - make about Jesus these days?

One common assumption people make about Jesus is that he's an absolutely non-violent pacifist who would never ask or allow his followers to take up arms. People who like the idea of "Pacifist Jesus" often point to Matthew 26:52 to prove their point: Jesus said, "Put your sword back in its place...for all who draw the sword will die by the sword." But why was Peter carrying a sword in the first place (see: Luke 22:36), and how does that change the "Pacifist Jesus" narrative?

What's the difference between making assumptions about Jesus based on what we've heard *about* him, instead of what we've heard *from* him? Why does this matter?

### 3 False Assumptions that Jesus Addresses with This *Deep Track*

1. Assumptions about his \_\_\_\_\_.

Matt 10:34 *Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.*

John 7:43 *The people were divided because of Jesus.*

What did Jesus mean when he said he came to bring a sword?

# The STORY CHURCH



The legendary preacher Charles Spurgeon once said, “*Truth comes before unity.*” What do you think he meant, and why does this idea matter?

Read Colossians 1:20. How did Jesus come to make peace? Why is the idea of “Christ crucified” so hard for so many people to accept?

2. Assumptions about our \_\_\_\_\_.

Matt. 10:35-36 “*For I have come to turn ‘a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law - a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’*”

How does the Truth of Jesus and his Gospel divide families and turn people against each other? How was this happening among Jesus’ Jewish followers in the first century?

Which is better: for half a family to love Jesus whole-heartedly, or for a whole family to embrace him half-heartedly? Why?

**Loving \_\_\_\_\_ more  
starts with loving \_\_\_\_\_ most.**

3. Assumptions about \_\_\_\_\_.

Matt. 10:37-39 “*Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.*”

Why did Jesus say that some people are “not worthy” of him? What else did he say about our “worth”? (See Matthew 10:26-31) What causes people to go from being “worth more than many sparrows” (Matt. 10:31) to being “unworthy” of Christ (Matt. 10:37-38)?

Would you say that you’ve mostly tried to keep Jesus in *your* orbit, or that you’ve mostly submitted yourself to orbit Jesus? Why would you say that?

What does it mean to you that Jesus represents a “dangerous and deadly weapon in this dark and fallen world”? How does this image of a sword-bearing Savior challenge some of the common assumptions people make about him?

How are you willing to let Jesus take a sword to the darkness in your life this week?