

RECAP

As you reflect on last week's message and challenge to set up reminders to engage the unseen and spiritual world, what were some of the things you as a group came up with?

Was there any hesitation with this challenge?

How can engaging with the unseen and spiritual world become tactile and concrete?

IDEA 1

In these mission statements from Luke, Jesus is giving us the gospel, the path to freedom, but He is also being real about it. *The path to freedom is costly.* The warning label on this path includes things like fire and decisions that cause divisions, but also there is the hope of freedom, true freedom.

What is your initial response to Jesus' fire and division mission statement? Does it bring about confusion? If so, why?

In what ways has following Jesus cost you and brought about conflict?

How have you experienced freedom through following Christ?

IDEA 2

In this mission statement, Jesus declares that this decision is more important than keeping the peace. Division is part of the decision. Still, division is not a license to mistreat people; if there is division, it should be with tears and grace, and about Jesus, only Jesus understands the strong reaction and rejection He is causing, but His plan is big enough to cover it.

Why do you think Jesus wanted his disciples and the crowds to know this about His mission?

What's the difference between the 'division' Jesus brings to the 'division' the world creates?

How does a follower of Jesus cultivate peace while simultaneously ascribing to the reality that *decisions cause division*?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

As you sit with your group, consider the truths that scriptures call us to believe that bring about division in the outside world. With your life group, think through how Jesus would have brought division were he living in our time.

**What is an essential belief that believers are to stand firm in order to follow Christ?
How can we stand firm in our beliefs and not be fogged by other voices besides Jesus?**

Recognize that Jesus, even in bringing division - never did so by force or coercion but by humility, compassion, and self-sacrifice.

In what ways can you model Jesus and remain firm in your decision to follow him even in the world's opposition?

APPLICATION

Jesus gives us two practical applications right after these difficult mission statements.

- (1) Discern the signs - wake up and pay attention.**
- (2) Settle our accounts - Make a decision**

As you consider this challenge given by Jesus, use these questions as your guide:

**What are the signs that God is showing you in order to make a decision for His will?
What is the place in life Jesus is calling you to make a decision to follow him more deeply?**