

Luke 12:52

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three.

Analysis

For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three (ἔσονται γὰρ ἀπὸ τοῦ νῦν πέντε ἐν ἐνὶ οἴκῳ διαμεμερισμένοι, τρεῖς ἐπὶ δυσὶν καὶ δύο ἐπὶ τρισὶν)—Jesus specifies the division's locus: en heni oikō (in one house). The household (oikos), Judaism's foundational social unit, fractures over Christ. The numbers (five, three/two) indicate minority/majority splits within families. Diamerizō (divided) describes permanent separation, not temporary disagreement.

This fulfills Micah 7:6: 'a man's enemies are the men of his own house'—Jesus quotes this in Matthew 10:35-36. The gospel's offense isn't merely theological but relational, demanding loyalty to Christ above family. In cultures prioritizing family honor and cohesion, this teaching was revolutionary and costly.

Historical Context

First-century Mediterranean culture was thoroughly collectivist—family identity, honor, and solidarity trumped individual choice. Conversion to Christ often meant family ostracism, disinheritance, persecution. Jesus's warning prepared disciples for this reality. Early Christian martyrologies document families betraying Christian members to authorities.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. Has following Jesus created division in your family—how do you navigate loyalty to Christ versus family peace?
2. How does this passage challenge cultural Christianity that never costs anything relational or social?
3. What does it mean practically to 'hate' father and mother (14:26) while honoring parents (Exodus 20:12)?

Interlinear Text

ἔσονται	γὰρ	ἀπὸ	τοῦ	νῦν	πέντε	ἐν	οἴκῳ	ἐνὶ
there shall be	For	from	G3588	henceforth	five	in	house	one
G2071	G1063	G575		G3568	G4002	G1722	G3624	G1520
διαμεμερισμένοι	τρισὶν	ἐπὶ	δύο	καὶ	δύο	ἐπὶ	τρισὶν	
divided	three	against	two	and	two	against	three	
G1266	G5140	G1909	G1417	G2532	G1417	G1909	G5140	

Additional Cross-References

Acts 28:24 (Parallel theme): And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not.

John 9:16 (Parallel theme): Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them.

