

## The Red-Letter Words of Yeshua ~ Part 64

### Yeshua Sends Out His Emissaries ~ Part 4

In our last post, we continued to examine the topic of **Yeshua Sends Out His Emissaries**. In this post, we learned that **Yeshua** discusses conflict and sacrifices.

#### Conflict and Sacrifices

***<sup>34</sup> "Don't suppose that I have come to bring peace to the Land. It is not peace I have come to bring, but a sword!"***

**Yeshua's** message inherently brings conflict. The context may indicate persecution and martyrdom, but interpersonal discord also results. A crude and foolish criticism of the **Brit Hadashah** based on this verse is that **Yeshua** advocates family strife. **Yeshua's** purpose is, of course, not to create contentiousness but end it. Yet He knows that tension may result when some family members trust Him while others do not.

***<sup>35</sup> For I have come to set***

***<sup>36</sup> a man against his father,  
a daughter against her mother,  
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,  
so that a man's enemies will be the members of his own household. <sup>1</sup>***

***<sup>37</sup> Whoever loves his father or mother more than he loves Me is not worthy of Me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than he loves Me is not worthy of Me.***

Devotion to the family should not supersede allegiance to **Yeshua**. **Yeshua** asked for unqualified allegiance, something even the most esteemed rabbi did not demand. The central point of Matt. 10:34–37 is that the love of God and His kingdom must take precedence over every other human relationship.

***<sup>38</sup> And anyone who does not take up his execution-stake and follow Me is not worthy of Me.***

***<sup>39</sup> Whoever finds his own life will lose it, but the person who loses his life for My sake will find it.***  
~ Mattityahu 10:34-39

**Execution-stake**, Greek *stavros*, usually translated as "**cross**." It was a vertical wooden stake with a crossbar, usually shaped more like a "T" than the Christian symbol, used by the Romans to execute criminals who were not Roman citizens (Roman citizens sentenced to death were given a less painful way to die). It was not a normal **Jewish** means of execution. *Halakhah* <sup>2</sup> specified four methods of execution—stoning, burning, beheading, and strangling - but not hanging or being suspended from a cross (see Galatians 3:13 & 1 Kefa 2:24).

In our next post, we will continue to examine **He Sends Out His Emissaries** beginning in Mattityahu 10:40.

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<sup>1</sup> Micah 7:6

<sup>2</sup> A Jewish legal ruling concerning the application of the **Torah** to various daily aspects of human conduct. **Yeshua** and the **Brit Hadashah** writers lived in a period of intense halakic discourse and debate.