

Luke 12:13-21 - The Age of Rage

Hostility keeps many hostages. Spouses, brothers and sisters, neighbors, business associates, races, and nations rage everywhere. We need peacemakers. Governments must maintain order. But Jesus didn't want his people to get involved in every dispute. Usually, we need to butt out. Why?

“A man in the crowd said to him, ‘Teacher, tell my brother to divide with me the property our father left us.’ Jesus answered, ‘Man, who gave me the right to judge, or to divide the property between you two?’” Why did Jesus refuse involvement? Simple. Greed divided the brothers. Cupidity and lust for power motivated those siblings. Can anyone's avarice and clout be worthier than another's?

Many preachers, teachers, and leaders assume they have the wisdom to umpire and referee society's disputes. They'd be better off arbitrating tomcat spats. Jesus didn't waste his time trying. By example, he taught us to remind unhappy, judgmental, greedy people that they will account to God—perhaps very soon. Real Christians don't referee. God's people joyously, generously share the Good News about Jesus. They leave the striving to others.

“Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.”

