

Series: The Gospel of Luke

Sermon: Dividing Line

Passage: Luke 12:49-59 (ESV)

Illustration:

Need: Jesus warns His disciples that following Him would not bring peace with others but rather hostile division.

I. The Judge who Redeems (12:49-50)

- Fire seems to represent God's ultimate judgment on this earth. (**2 Peter 3:3-10**)
- This baptism refers to Jesus' suffering and death - the upside down victory of God's redemptive plan.

II. Redemption that causes division (12:51-53)

- Those things about Jesus being the agent of Peace are all true (Isa. 9:6; Luke 2:14; John 14:27; **John 3:18-21**) for the one who embraces Him as Messiah, Savior, and King.
- While many embrace Jesus as Christ many more reject Him and this often leads to hostile rejection of even loved ones (ex. Muslims who convert to Christianity).
- Today, if you follow Jesus boldly and consistently you will likely suffer open rejection/cancelation.

III. Willing blindness to the signs (12:54-56)

- Then to the unbelieving/undecided crowds Jesus exposes their "willing" blindness.
- These Israelites could see the weather trends and accurately predict the weather but they could not put together all they had been taught about Messiah and see that Jesus was indeed the one.

IV. Wisdom not to be ignored (12:57-59)

- When you are in the wrong it's wise to try to settle up with your creditor before you get to court.
- If one waits to stand before the ultimate Judge he/she will be held completely responsible as guilty.
- However, if one wants to be made right he/she need only seek that reconciliation from the Savior while there is still opportunity to do so (**Rom 5:11**).

V. Personal Application

- If you are not yet a follower of Jesus, today is the day to surrender. Don't wait until it's too late.
- If you are a follower of Jesus, remember that He is the cause of division. We are not to be the cause.
- Peace should follow believers and they should be pursuers of Peace. But don't expect Peace to reign on earth until Jesus reigns on earth.