

Luke 12:49-59

We will be taking a break from our study of Luke's gospel after today.

1. Next week we are going to refocus on our vision as a church...we must keep it before us until it is viewed, not as a church program, but as an individual pursuit.
2. Then Michael will be preaching...
3. And the following Sunday we are going to start an extremely extremely important series where we are going to spend a couple of months looking at Peter's disciple making strategy in 2 Peter 1.
4. Then, we will get back into Luke's gospel and finish it at some point in the distant future.

This morning, as we wrap up chapter 12 we are going to see a prediction, a promise, and a plea from Jesus.

I. A Prediction of Gospel Distress v49-50

"I have come to cast fire upon the earth;

1. This was predicted by John the Baptist before Jesus came on the scene

2. Matthew 3:11-12 *11 "As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."*

3. Jesus proclaims himself as the one John predicted: I have come to cast fire upon the earth...

"I have come to cast fire upon the earth; and how I wish it were already kindled!

1. I wish it were already judgment time. That doesn't sound too much like Jesus does it?
 - a. I wish the the sheep were already being gathered into my fold and the goats being cast outside the gate
 - b. I wish the wheat was already being gathered into my barn and the chaff burned up
2. But I can't bypass what stands between today and that day...the cross

"I have come to cast fire upon the earth; and how I wish it were already kindled! 50 But I have a baptism to undergo,

1. This isn't a baptism like He experienced with John. No, the thought of this baptism caused distress.
2. Mark 10:38 *But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?"*
3. This baptism is a baptism of suffering: not just a **symbol** of death and burial, but **actually** death and burial!

and how distressed I am until it is accomplished!

1. Luke 22:41-44 *And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and began to pray, 42 saying, "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done." 43 Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him. 44 And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground.*

2. GOSPEL

There is a prediction of gospel distress...but also:

II. A Promise of Gospel Division v51-53

51 Do you suppose that I came to grant peace on earth? I tell you, no, but rather division; 52 for from now on five members in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three. 53 They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

1. Don't think that following Jesus brings a comfortable easy life of peace. Just the opposite in fact.

2. Matthew 10:34-39 *34 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; 36 and A MAN'S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD. 37 "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. 39 He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.*

There is a clear promise of gospel division, but there is good news

1. In the midst of this division that Jesus causes in our earthly relationships there is some good news.

2. Mark 10:29-31 *Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake, 30 but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life. 31 But many who are first will be last, and the last, first."*

III. A Plea for Gospel Discernment v54-59

• Discernment of the Times

54 And He was also saying to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, 'A shower is coming,' and so it turns out. 55 And when you see a south wind blowing, you say, 'It will be a hot day,' and it turns out that way. 56 You hypocrites! You know how to analyze the appearance of the earth and the sky, but why do you not analyze this present time?"

1. 1 Chronicles 12:32 *Of the sons of Issachar, men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their kinsmen were at their command.*

2. Esther 1:13 *Then the king said to the wise men who understood the times--for it was the custom of the king so to speak before all who knew law and justice*

3. We need to discern the times

- a. we are between the cross and the culmination
- b. We have one thing we have been left here to do: advance the Kingdom of God to every nation, tongue, tribe and people group through evangelism, discipling, and missions.

1. Matthew 28:18-20 *And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

2. We have one thing we have been left here to do: advance the Kingdom of God to every nation, tongue, tribe and people group through evangelism, discipling, and missions.

- c. We act like the work is done....we are living for this life and the task we are facing is unfinished still!!

Facing a task unfinished That drives us to our knees
A need that, undiminished Rebukes our slothful ease
We, who rejoice to know Thee Renew before Thy throne
The solemn pledge we owe Thee To go and make Thee known

Where other lords beside Thee Hold their unhindered sway
Where forces that defied Thee Defy Thee still today
With none to heed their crying For life, and love, and light
Unnumbered souls are dying And pass into the night

We bear the torch that flaming Fell from the hands of those
Who gave their lives proclaiming That Jesus died and rose
Ours is the same commission The same glad message ours
Fired by the same ambition To Thee we yield our powers

O Father who sustained them O Spirit who inspired
Saviour, whose love constrained them To toil with zeal un-tired
From cowardice defend us From lethargy awake!
Forth on Thine errands send us To labour for Thy sake

We go to all the world
With kingdom hope unfurled
No other name has power to save
But Jesus Christ The Lord

- **Discernment of Situations**

57 “And why do you not even on your own initiative judge what is right? 58 For while you are going with your opponent to appear before the magistrate, on your way there make an effort to settle with him, so that he may not drag you before the judge, and the judge turn you over to the officer, and the officer throw you into prison. 59 I say to you, you will not get out of there until you have paid the very last cent.”

1. Ephesians 5:10 trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

2. Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

a. Do not be conformed to the world (the age)

b. Be transformed

Conclusion:

This is where we break from Luke’s gospel.

1. A prediction of gospel distress
2. A promise of gospel division
3. A plea for gospel discernment

With hopefully...a better understanding of the gospel from our study. Do you know Him?