

The Parchment



Studies for making fully devoted followers of Christ

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Peace or Division

Luke 12:49-59

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Using This Study

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

② EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!

Luke 12:49-53

This week we will finish chapter 12 of Luke. There are 3 main sections in this passage. The first talks about the division that will come between those that follow Christ and those that choose not to follow Him. The second talks about reading the signs that point to what is to come and the last section talks about settling disputes with one another. All three of these relate to our interactions with one another. Join us this week as we talk about how we can honor God in both our division and in settling our disputes.



Not Peace, but Division

49 “I have come to bring fire on the earth – and how I wish it were already kindled! 50 I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is finished! 51 Do you think I have come to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! 52 For from now on there will be five in one household 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 her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

Reading the Signs

54 Jesus also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, ‘A rainstorm is coming,’ and it does. 55 And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and there is. 56 You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky, but how can you not know how to interpret the present time?

Clear the Debts

57 “And why don’t you judge for yourselves what is right? 58 As you are going with your accuser before the magistrate, make an effort to settle with him on the way, so that he will not drag you before the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer throw you into prison. 59 I tell you, you will never get out of there until you have paid the very last cent!”

① EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
 2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
 3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
 4. Is there anything repeated?
 5. What is emphasized?
 6. What other areas of Scripture are directly related to this passage that might help us understand this passage better?
 7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

② EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)

What does God MEAN?

8. Why will families turn against each other?

9. How do we reconcile verse 51 with other verses that say Jesus brings peace? (Luke 2:14)

10. In verses 54-56 what does Jesus suggest they should be able to identify?

11. Is verse 57 saying we should determine for ourselves what is right and wrong?

12. Why does Jesus say we should settle with someone before we get to the judge?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)

Why does this MATTER to me?

13. Is it ok for us to have division in our families with those that are nonbelievers? How do you think we should interact with family members that are nonbelievers?
 14. How do we interpret signs that we may see in today's world?
 15. How do verses 57-59 relate to whether or not we should file litigation against someone?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes