

Luke 12:49 - 13:8 — Not Peace but Division

⁴⁹ “I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. ⁵² From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, 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.”

Interpreting the Times

⁵⁴ He said to the crowd: “When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, ‘It’s going to rain,’ and it does. ⁵⁵ And when the south wind blows, you say, ‘It’s going to be hot,’ and it is. ⁵⁶ Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don’t know how to interpret this present time?

⁵⁷ “Why don’t you judge for yourselves what is right? ⁵⁸ As you are going with your adversary to the magistrate, try hard to be reconciled to him on the way, or he may drag you off to the judge, and the judge turn you over to the officer, and the officer throw you into prison. ⁵⁹ I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.”

Luke 13 — Repent or Perish

¹ Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. ² Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? ³ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

⁶ Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. ⁷ So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’

⁸ “‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it.’ ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’ ”

Luke 12:49 - 13:8

1. What causes family members to turn against each other? What do families typically fight or disagree about?
2. What did Jesus come to bring? Why did he wish that the fire were already kindled? (12:49)
3. What did most people think Jesus was bringing? In what way did Jesus bring division? (12:51) Where would this be most clearly noticed? (12:52-53)
4. Over what issues should we be willing to be divided with our friends or members of our family?
5. In verses 12:54-56, what didn't the crowd know how to interpret? Why did Jesus call them hypocrites for not knowing how to interpret "this present time?"
6. What did Jesus want his audience to do? (12:57) Why is this difficult? Has God ever given you a sign or strong feeling that you should do something? Did you do it?
7. How is an "out of court" settlement better than a judge's decision? Why did Jesus cite that example?
8. What connection do many people make between how bad they are and how much they suffer? What's wrong with saying that people suffer because of how sinful they are?
9. What can we do to keep from judging people by their circumstances?
10. What does Jesus mean by his warning in Verse 13:5?
11. There are three "characters" in the parable of the fig tree, the owner, the farmer, and the fig tree itself. What do each of them represent? What is the meaning of the parable? (13:6-8)