

Bible Study
Luke 12:49-13:5

Opening Question:

1. When you think about the return of Christ, what comes to mind?
2. What do you think of when you hear the word judgement?

Read Luke 12:49-13:5

Discussion Questions

1. Why has Jesus come to the earth?
 - (a) How does this compare with the common view of why Jesus came?
2. Why do you think that Jesus uses the term Baptism to refer to his crucifixion?
3. What does fire represent in this passage?
 - (a) Why do you think that Jesus wants the fire to be kindled quickly?
 - (b) How does that make you feel?
4. In your mind, what is perfect love?
 - (a) Why do you think the theme of Judgement a necessary part of the gospel?
5. Which doctrines are so essential to the faith that we must divide when others deny these doctrines?
6. Why is the message of the cross offensive to sinners?
 - (a) What is the difference between people being offended at the message versus the messenger?
7. What did Jesus tell the crowd they were not good at? (v54-59)
 - (a) What do you think this means in today's context?

8. How does 13:1-5 portray the call for repentance and impending judgment?

9. What is the balance between being urgent about the gospel and giving people the necessary time to respond?

Thought Points

- Kingdom choices separate earthly relationships
- To be Jesus' disciple might mean being misunderstood even by one's own family
- Jesus' warnings are increasing: Israel is being called to respond to what God is doing, before judgment comes and they are held responsible for rejecting God's messenger
- Fire is closely linked with the presence and power of God
- Fire is often used, either symbolically or literally, as an instrument of divine wrath, exercised against sinners, both Israelites and Gentiles
- The future fire of divine judgment is closely linked with the coming of Messiah
- God can not love perfectly and allow sin & evil to go un-judged.
- At the outset of Jesus' ministry, John the Baptist spoke of the coming Messiah as bringing fire.
- Judgement is coming but is delayed
- All are under the judgment of sin until washed in the blood of Jesus
- You can declare your independence from anything the world offers by trusting God fully and being prepared for the return of Christ
- True peace can not be won unless it can destroy or transform opposing forces

Extra Reading

Genesis 19:24, 1 Kings 17:24, 1 Kings 18:24, Psalm 21:9, Isaiah 66:15; Joel 2:30; Amos 1:7; Mal. 3:2., Micah 7:6, Matthew 26:40, Mark 12:42, John 7:12, John 9:49:4,

Personal Reflection:

- How can you use this passage to understand your role as a believer in preparing people for the return of Christ?
- What do you need to change in your own life to "settle your account" with God?