



Today's Message

Date: May 2, 2021
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: ***Judgment, Conflict, and Repentance***

Text: Luke 12:49–59 (ESV)

⁴⁹ “I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. ⁵² For from now on in one house there will be five 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.”

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

⁵⁷ “And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right? ⁵⁸ As you go with your accuser before the magistrate, make an effort to settle with him on the way, lest he drag you to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer put you in prison. ⁵⁹ I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the very last penny.”

Introduction: The sermon text includes three paragraphs that, at first glance, seem unrelated, but closer evaluation suggests that

they stand together to create a powerful challenge. Jesus begins with a description of his mission that includes judgment and conflict. Next, he derides the crowd for their unwillingness to see the signs he has presented to them. Finally, he calls them to get right with God while they still can. It is a stern call to repentance (for the lost) and determined commitment (for his followers).

Today's take-home truth: It is not easy to follow Jesus, but you must trust him while you can.

I. Jesus' mission divides people in time and eternity. 49-53

- A. The purpose of Jesus' mission is two-fold. 49-50
 - 1. He executes judgment on rebels. 49
 - 2. He endured judgment for his own. 50
- B. The consequence of Jesus' mission is division. 51-53
 - 1. He brought division rather than peace. 51
 - 2. He brought deep, painful division. 52-53

II. Do not fail to see the opportunity he brings you. 54-56

- A. Illustration: People see what they want to see. 54-55
- B. Rebuke: People refuse to see what is important. 56

III. Settle accounts with God before it is too late. 57-59

- A. Make the right choice. 57
- B. Do not squander this opportunity to settle things with God. 58-59