

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE



*glimpses
of glory*

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DATE: OCTOBER 29, 2023

The Kingdom of God Arrives, Bringing a Crisis of Decision Luke 12: 49 – 13:9

Review

- Jesus's Kingly identity requires a response of loyalty or rejection. (Luke 2:34, 11:23)
- Jesus has a two-stage purpose: favor and judgement. (Luke 3:16-18, 4:17-19)

By design, the Kingdom proclamation presents a divisive choice.

Luke 12:49 "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."

Jesus emphasizes the urgency of repentance and loyalty by...

1. ...exposing the folly of intentionally ignoring the evidence of the Kingdom's arrival.

Luke 12:54 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?"

2. ...warning against letting the clock run out on the time of God's favor.

Luke 12:57 "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."

Luke 3:9 Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

3. ...revealing the false security of momentarily favorable circumstances.

Luke 13:1 *There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? 3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. 4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? 5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."*

4. ...urging fruitful repentance from fence-sitters while there's still time to enter the Kingdom.

Luke 13:6 *And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. 7 And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' 8 And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. 9 Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"*

Luke 3:8a *Bear fruits in keeping with repentance.*

Reflection/Discussion

1. How would Jesus's words have encouraged and strengthened the loyalty of Luke's gentile audience toward King Jesus?
2. Though Jesus's words had special significance to first century Jews, how are his key points still important today?

SONGS

"GLORIOUS DAY"

"RAISE A HALLELUJAH"

"ALWAYS GOOD"

"LIVING HOPE"

Crossing Music Pastor: Dan Gillette (dan@vbc.online)

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