

I Came to Cast Fire

Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 12:49-59



Big Idea

The notion of judgment may be unpopular, but truly we are all longing for a judge to come and make every wrong right. God will do this in Jesus but if we want to be standing on the right side of this judgment we must settle our debts with Him outside of court. We must flee to the cross.

(1) It Is Desirable (v. 49)

Jesus here is not denying that He desires for none to perish and for all to be saved. But He is saying, rather, that He longs for the day when all unrepentant and rampant evil in the world will be done away with. He is here, you could say, expressing His desire for all the wrong of this world to finally and fully be made right. God's judgment is not at odds with His goodness and love, but is, in fact, an expression of it. If I do not long for God to come in judgment, if I think God rather harsh for talking like this and wish He wouldn't, well, then I betray the fact, I think, that I must not have yet brushed up against much of the world's evil and, hence, I have a very insufficient estimation of it. When you have brushed up against real, legitimate, life-shattering evil, you are not embarrassed of the judgment of God, you desire it.

(2) It Is Divisive (vv. 51-53)

No doubt Jesus has come to bring peace on earth in an ultimate sense, but getting there is going to be quite the ride. Because He's going to have to talk to us about our sin. Not their sin. Not the sin of Roman or Gentile or Pagan. Not my parents' sin. Not my spouse's sin. Not my enemy's sin. But my own. I am part of the problem that He needs to come and fix. I am part of the wrong that He needs to come and right. Because He loves us, He's going to have to tell us the truth. The fire of God's wrath is not just set to fall on those over there. It's set to fall on us, unless something changes in a hurry.

(3) It Is Dire (vv. 54-59)

The basic sense of Jesus' words in vv. 58-59 is this: "Regardless of what you think about yourself and your righteousness, I assure you, you are on the wrong side of the law and the Judge of all the earth is coming. Let's try to settle this thing outside of court before it's too late."

(4) It Is Delayed (v. 50)

Here is how the sinner can settle accounts with God outside of court. Jesus goes into the courtroom for us and negotiates on our behalf. He lets the mallet of God's justice drive the nails through His own hands and feet. "Guilty as charged." He pays back our infinite debt, to "the very last penny" (v. 59). At the cross, not only has He delayed the day of judgment for us, He has also made a way for that day of judgment to become, not bad, but good news. He took our sin, we get His righteousness. He took our debt, we get His reward. He took our death, we get His life!

Reflection Questions



- Have you ever read statements concerning God's judgment in the Bible and wished you could edit them out? Which verses? Be honest. Why do you think?
- On the other side, have you ever read statements of God's judgment in the Bible and found them desirable, even good news? Which verses? What seemed good and why?
- Would you agree that everyone, believer or unbeliever, is truly longing for a judge to come and make things right? How are you tempted to react to injustice done to you? In what ways are your reactions really a crying out for judgment? How does knowing judgment is coming in Jesus free you to love even your enemies here and now?