

Luke 12.35-59

Jesus' Fire Baptism

Pastoral Search Com: People searching for Man who'll be Totally Fearless & Uncompromising as he tells them what they want to hear

Hard Sayings by Jesus: Hypocrisy, Greed, Not Ready for Coming of Lord

Life is Short / Be Rich toward God / Seek His Kingdom First

Ch 12 > Luke keeps Changing PERSPECTIVE of Camera

Wide Angle: Crowds // Tight Shots: Just Chosen Disciples

v. 1 so many thousands of the people had gathered together that they were trampling one another, he began to say to his disciples first

vs. 13 Someone in the crowd said to him

v. 22 And he said to his disciples / v. 54 He also said to the crowds...

v. 41 Peter said, "Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?"

Words of Peter: IMPORTANT Message for Luke's Original Audience

Church of Risen Lord Established around Roman Empire of 1st Century

SPECIAL CLASS of People? > God's INNER CIRCLE of Friends?

No DIVISION btwn People > NOT Disciples / Crowds or Clergy / Laity

Blazing LIGHT of SAVIOR > Will EXPOSE all SIN of ALL PEOPLE

Kamaiana / Malahini – Member / Visitor – Young / Old >> HEAR Him!

DEATH can come at any Time > JESUS could come at Any Time

3 Parables w/in Parable >> All Deal w Master & Household –

1. Anticipation of the Kingdom

a. Dressed for Service 2nd Coming Jesus in View: Salvation & Judgment

v. 35 "Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning ...

Jesus links FUTURE Plan of God w PRESENT FAITHFULNESS of Man

Same Command given to Israel: MARCH on Night of EXODUS

Men wore long Flowing Robes: Attractive NOT Useful to Work or Run

Serious Task > Bottom Hem TUCKED into BELT around Waist to Serve

v. 36 ... be like men waiting for their master to come home from wedding feast, so they may open the door to him at once when he comes & knocks

// Like 5 VIRGINS w OIL in LAMPS > Servants AWAKE are BLESSED

Wedding Feast could LAST WEEK > END TIME was NOT DEFINITE

// WAITER in Restaurant who Actually LOOKS to SERVE Customers

Several Wd Pictures > Same Basic Truth > Ready Unexpected Surprises

v. 38 If he comes in 2nd watch, or 3rd / Jews 3 Watches > 3rd See Sunrise!

vs. 39,40 if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect "

b. Delight of the Master Jesus stories often have TWIST > Shock!

Servant SUPPOSED to Serve: Saying Thanks would be Big SURPRISE

vs. 37,38 Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them.

Not a TYPO! – “Jesus came not to BE Served but to SERVE”!

Master of Universe – Lord of all UNIVERSE – Comes to SERVE & DIE!

2. Accountability in the Kingdom

v. 42 "Who then is the faithful & wise manager, whom the master sets over his household, to give them their portion of food at proper time?

JOY of Master: Good Steward, Resources, Responsibilities in Good Hand

ESTATE Properly RUN – MASTER NO NEED to Fear, or even WORRY

If we are God's servants, then we need to be busy teaching God's Word, healing the sick, feeding the hungry, visiting prisoners, caring for children, helping the elderly, or doing whatever humble service we have the ability to do. Time is short. Philip Ryken

43, 44 Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his

Punishment for Sins: COMMISSION & OMISSION / Do and Don't Do

Some Servants get Tired of Waiting > Master NOT Coming!

vs. 45,46 But suppose the servant says to himself, 'My master is taking a long time in coming,' and he then begins to beat the menservants and maidservants and to eat and drink and get drunk. The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.

Jesus Words > Unfaithful Servant – HEWN to PIECES – Scarry? GOOD!

Jesus > More about HELL than Heaven: Not Want Anyone to GO There

WE have ONLY MESSAGE that can KEEP PEOPLE OUT of HELL!

PUNISHMENT Reveals these NEVER WERE TRUE Servants of GOD

v. 47 "That servant who knows his master's will and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants will be beaten with many blows.

Always act just as you would wish to be acting if he were to come. Charles Spurgeon

v. 48 But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows.

NO Such TOTAL IGNORANCE of God > Therefore NO EXCUSE

Our very ignorance is part of our sin. Bishop J.C. Ryle

"word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart" Romans 10:8

When I consult NT, I find that our Lord Jesus Christ does not absolve from punishment even sins committed in ignorance, although he attaches a harsher threat to deliberate sins. Basil the Great, Bp Caesarea, 370 AD

Degrees of Sentencing Degrees of Punishment in AFTER-Life

v. 48 From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; from the one who has been entrusted w much, much more will be asked.

DIVISION between Faithful Servants & those Abusing their Privileges

Kiss Cam @ ColdPlay Concert > Boss Romantic Embrace w Employee

Both Married to OTHER People – have Kids / Families

Camera puts them on JUMBOTRON: Hide like Cockroach when Light On

“Isn’t it interesting that our culture is still capable of coming to the quick moral judgment that adultery is wrong? The prophets of moral relativism want that kiss cam video to be unremarkable—just two autonomous human beings doing what autonomous human beings—one male, one female—can do. But it just isn’t possible to look at the video without moral judgment.”
Al Mohler

Fascinating in our very sexually liberated culture: Boss should be FIRED!

Made Image of God: MORAL – Right & Wrong / even if TWISTED

Genesis 3: Shame. Guilty couple HIDES – Cover Self w Leaves

3. Achievement of the Kingdom

When we feel shame, what do we do? We hide. We try to run away.

They couldn’t face the world knowing the world knew what they’d done.

We will never outgrow the conscience. Never evolve past need for Savior.

It shows our need for forgiveness, for justification, for a Savior.

You can pick your sin, but you can’t pick your consequences.

TITLE of Jesus: PRINCE of PEACE > brings God’s SHALOM

PEACE – Make ALL Things RIGHT > God, Man, Society, Creation

Hard Task must be Done to Win Peace: Earn God’s FAVOR to Man

49,50 "I have come to cast fire on earth...would that it were already kindled! baptism...how great is my distressed until it is accomplished

Not PEACE at ANY PRICE > PEACE that has VERY HIGH PRICE

a Anguish 49,50 would that it were already kindled...great is my distress

Zeal for the cause He had taken in hand was like a fire burning within Him. To advance His Father's glory, to open the door to life for a lost world, to provide a fountain for all sin and uncleanness by the sacrifice of Himself, were continually the uppermost thoughts of His mind.

JC Ryle

...in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground

Luke 22.44

1) Fire - Clear LINK in Scripture between FIRE and JUDGMENT

Who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire.
Malachi 3.2

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Luke 3.16,17

2) First – Jesus will be FIRST to taste FIRE > BAPTISM of FIRE

BAPTISM NOT Water, or SPIRIT > BOTH Occurred in JORDAN River

BAPTISM into DEATH upon CROSS > Marching to JERUSALEM

For Jesus - Judgment meant CROSS - FIRE ON EARTH - HIM FIRST!

Jesus is saying that God's plan is for salvation that involves judgment, but a judgment that the Messiah will bear for others...it cannot be an attractive prospect, but Jesus longs for it to come, for only so can the saving work of the cross be accomplished. Leon Morris

V 50 what constraint I am under until the ordeal is over! New English Bible

Jesus Accepted its Inevitability > but Nothing could make it Attractive

BAPTISM = OVERWHELMED BY THE WRATH OF GOD

Jesus asked (glory seeking disciples), "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?" "We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with..." Mark 10.37-39

Following Jesus Means Suffering > Suffering ONLY PATH to GLORY

b. Achievement NOT CONFUSE Jesus' Anguish for UNCERTAINTY

Jesus CAUGHT UP in these EVENTS AND He CONTROLS Them

v. 50 until it is completed! = ACCOMPLISHED – Greek: TELESTHE

Same word Spoken from Cross: Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. John 19.30

HE is no LONGER in Agony – Hanging from CROSS - Problem Crucifix

Unseen Line thru World: Nations, Offices, Schools, Families, Churches

v. 52,53 For from now on in 1 house there will be 5 divided, 3 against 2 & 2 against 3. 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 is the crisis of the world...that moment or occasion of truth and decision about life.
Fred Craddock

Love for Jesus may mean you lose ones you love the most. D.R. Davis

Coming to Jesus is sometimes just the beginning of your problems.

Jesus DIVIDES Families – Friendships – Partnerships - Churches

MESSAGE OF PEACE BECOMES THE CAUSE OF DIVISION

4. Appreciation of the Kingdom

Merriam Webster Dictionary > “Pluralism”

A: theory that there are more than 1 or 2 kinds of ultimate reality

B: a theory that reality is composed of a plurality of entities

2004 interview w "60 Minutes" Jim Carrey: "I'm a Buddhist, I'm a Muslim, I'm a Christian. I'm whatever you want me to be"

Must Everyone have Jesus – What about Others? Will they go to Hell?

Gospel of Luke shows Jesus > Teaching / Dying – Preaching / Purification

Announcement / Accomplishment – Kingdom / Crucifixion

There is No Other Savior Coming to Save Us – Only Jesus will Save!

Rejecting Jesus closes Door on Any Hope of Peace, Forgiveness, Heaven

Jesus says Obvious >> "Why don't you judge for yourselves what is right?"

vs. 54-57 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...when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. 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? “And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right?”

KNEW WEATHER PATTERNS of MEDITERRANEAN

Check Stock Market – Standings of Team or Player – Facebook Likes

IGNORE THE VERY PRESENCE OF GOD IN THE WORLD

Some Servants Expect Master - Some SHOCKED

vs. 58-59 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. I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the very last penny.”

Judea - CONFLICTING LEGAL SYSTEMS - Jewish and Roman

ABUSE OF JUSTICE -play one off the other - County, State, Federal

IF ALL ELSE FAILS, MAYBE THE JUDGE CAN BE BRIBED

NOT SO WITH GOD - JUSTICE IS SWIFT AND SURE

NO HIGHER COURT TO APPEAL TO BEYOND HIM

NOT Good News for Rich Guys > Bill Gates cannot BUY a FREE PASS

GOD is SPENDER > Spend the FULL RESOURCES of His WRATH

Ref > Smallest COIN in Use > COPPER Penny > LEPTON

God's Penalty of Condemnation will be EXACTED to FINAL PENNY

Every Cent, Every Gram of Hell's FURY will be SPENT on SINNER

No PURGATORY – No Way Out Ever - SOUND TERRIBLE?? IT IS!!!

Christianity is not a religion for faithful servants, but a gospel for unfaithful servants.

Philip Ryken

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world 1 John 2.1,2

Pioneer Days of America - Prairie Fires swept across open lands

Terrifying Wave of FIRE - NOT EVEN HORSES COULD OUTRUN

People burned grass in designated areas near them

Safe as Fire Surged AROUND THEM IN PLACE ALREADY BURNED

Jesus took God's wrath for us - in Him is safety from God's fire

1. Do U Know Jesus? / 2. Do U Share Jesus? / 3. Do U Pray for Others?

Psalm 15 Who Shall Dwell on Your Holy Hill? *A Psalm of David.*

O Lord, who shall sojourn in your tent? **Who shall dwell on yur holy hill?**

He who walks blamelessly and does what is right **and speaks truth in his heart;**

who does not slander with his tongue **and does no evil to his neighbor,**

nor takes up a reproach against his friend; **in whose eyes a vile person is despised,**

but who honors those who fear the Lord; **who swears to his own hurt and does not change;**

who does not put out his money at interest **and does not take a bribe against the innocent.**

He who does these things shall never be moved. Amen and Amen.