

"The Division Jesus Brings"

Luke 12:49-59

Read Psalm 2

Worship:

- ["How Deep The Father's Love For Us"](#)
- ["Christ Be Magnified"](#)

Discussion:

- What does it mean for Christ to be our Mediator? (cite Scripture)
 - [Chp. 8, 1689 2LBC](#) "God was pleased, in his eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, his only begotten Son, according to the covenant made between them, to be the mediator between God and humanity.¹ God chose him to be prophet,² priest,³ and king,⁴ and to be head and savior of the church,⁵ the heir of all things,⁶ and judge of the world.⁷ From all eternity, God gave to the Son a people to be his offspring. In time these people would be redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified by him.⁸"
 - 1: [Isaiah 42:1](#); 1 [Peter 1:19, 20](#). 2: [Acts 3:22](#). 3: [Hebrews 5:5, 6](#). 4: [Psalms 2:6](#); [Luke 1:33](#). 5: [Ephesians 1:22, 23](#). 6: [Hebrews 1:2](#). 7: [Acts 17:31](#). 8: [Isaiah 53:10](#); [John 17:6](#); [Romans 8:30](#).

LEARN

1. Read Luke 12:49-59. What was most impactful from the passage and sermon?
2. Reflecting on verse 49 and other portions of Scripture, what does fire do?
 - a. Fire consumes and it purifies; The same fire of the gospel as it goes out does multiple things at the same time – it consumes to judgment and purifies to eternal life; The fire of Christ consumes those who reject him, but it purifies those who receive him
3. In what way is the cross something that divides?
 - a. The cross being made of wood becomes the "spiritual igniter," the beginning of a blaze set by God himself to divide people according to how they respond to Jesus and what he accomplished through his death, burial, and resurrection; The cross also divides because many are offended to be told that there is no other way to eternal life than through Jesus ([John 14:6](#)); There is no neutrality in our response to the cross

4. What was Jesus referring to in verse 50?
 - a. Jesus, being sent by the Father, knew he is going to bear upon himself the weight of sin and the holy judgment of God in the place of sinners - The Judge of the earth, was going to be judged on the cross; Jesus wasn't only referring the pain he'd endure, but the temporary separation from the Father to experience the full weight of the just, holy wrath of God against sin; Calling it a baptism is to say he will be fully immersed in the pangs of death, albeit temporarily, but also totally

PRACTICE

1. Joy comes with entering Christ's family through faith in Him, but there is also division and sorrow that comes from it when those around us lack the same faith. If you have experienced this, how has God strengthened you to stand firm when division meets you? What good has He worked in your life through the conflict you've endured?
 - a. Examples: Solidified your conviction that Jesus is worth it; Increased your motivation to pray for those without faith; Experienced division/tension with a friend/family member, but remained steadfast and trusting in God to work on their heart and restore the relationship; It's a reminder that there's no turning back and that Jesus is your life.
2. In vv. 54-56 Jesus was illustrating that hypocrites cannot see their greatest need. (Israel was looking for the wrong type of deliverance, i.e. political) What is the application for us? Describe how that is lived out.
 - a. For those who are not reconciled to God now is the time to repent and embrace Christ through faith. For those who profess faith in Christ, it's a reminder that we are to follow him at all times and at all costs (even if it causes division among friends/family); We should understand with the wisdom of God's word how he would have us live in this age - though there are many forms of division, there are many opportunities to proclaim Christ with those around us; Col. 4:5-6; Heb. 10:23-39

Prayer: Take turns briefly sharing about a relationship you may have where there is division due to your faith in Christ. Have the person to your right pray for you and that situation.

CHANGE

- Pastor Chris posed the question: "Are you squandering the days and years you've been given, or are you seeing what God has put before you and faithfully building, leading, serving the Lord?" What characterizes a life truly lived for God? How is it different from the life of one who rejects the cross?
 - Life lived for God: abandoning everything for the sake of the cross; obeying God's commandment to love God and one another; abiding in Christ; seeking to expand the kingdom through discipling others, evangelism, being a godly parent; committing to church membership, serving, and the life of the church body, etc.
 - Life of one rejecting the cross: selfish, prideful, motivated by what will benefit himself, not caring about what God says, living like the world

- Last week's "Change" question was, "What areas of your life do you need to evaluate and potentially make changes to be more vigilant in your faith? What concrete steps will you take to do so?" How has the past week gone in light of those questions?