



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of January 8, 2023

Sermon Text *Luke 12:49-59*

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."

If you were not able to listen to this week's sermon, then please refer to this link to listen prior to answering these questions, <http://hawaiiikaichurch.org/sermons/page/1>.

Discussion Questions

1. What recent events in the world have made you long for justice and judgment to fall upon the evil actions of men? When unbelievers question the reality of God because of all the evil in the world, what important qualities about themselves and God are they overlooking? (Romans 3:23 and 2 Peter 3:9)
2. According to verses 49 and 50, how does Jesus view the evil in this world and what is He going to do about it? How can you use these verses to share the gospel with unbelievers who question God's existence because of the overwhelming evil in the world?
3. Jesus warns His disciples that those who believe and follow Him will be divided from those who do not believe, even from their closest relatives. How does this make you feel? Even if we are rejected by our own families, what consolation do you have in Christ?
4. Similar to how people can observe the clouds and the wind to predict future weather patterns, what "signs" has God given to mankind, and to what are these signs pointing?

5. Jesus repeatedly warns of a coming judgment upon sin. Do you think Jesus can come across as too harsh? How do you think unbelievers respond when they hear Jesus' warnings? Should we as Christians try to make Jesus' words kinder and gentler so that people respond better to them? Why or why not?