

The Judge Who Takes Our Sentence

Luke 12:49-59 ▪ February 15, 2026 ▪ Nick Braitto

He endured our _____ for us. (vv. 49-50)

He reveals the _____ to us. (vv. 51-53)

He summons a _____ from us. (vv. 54-57)

He offers a _____ to us. (vv. 58-59)

Luke 12:49-59

⁴⁹“I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! ⁵⁰I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished!

⁵¹Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. ⁵²For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. ⁵³They 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.”

⁵⁴He 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. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens.

⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time? ⁵⁷And 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. ⁵⁹I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the very last penny.” (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: Think of a time when someone told you a hard truth you didn't want to hear at first. How did you respond, and what did that experience eventually produce in you?

Read & Discuss: Luke 12:49-59

1. Jesus says He came to “cast fire on the earth” (v. 49) and speaks of a “baptism” He must undergo (v. 50). What emotions or thoughts rise in you when you hear Jesus describe His mission as He does in verses 49-50? Why do you think Jesus wants His disciples to understand the cost He Himself would bear? How does knowing that Jesus willingly faced judgment for you shape the way you relate to Him?
2. Jesus says His coming will bring division, even within families (vv. 51–53). Why does the Gospel—a message of love—often create tension or conflict in relationships? If you've experienced this, how does it help to know that Jesus told us to expect this? What are some other ways you've observed or experienced a decision to follow Jesus lead to a change in loyalties or priorities?
3. Jesus rebukes the crowds for being able to interpret the weather but failing to interpret “the present time” (vv. 54–56). What are some signs God has given that Jesus really is the Savior and Lord? What makes it easy for us to be attentive to so many things, yet ignore or overlook the most important things? How can we cultivate a heart that is spiritually perceptive?
4. Jesus urges His listeners to “settle with your accuser” before it's too late (vv. 57–59). Why is there such a heavy emphasis on urgency in this passage? In what ways have you personally experienced the relief of reconciliation—with God or with others?
5. What do you think Jesus means when He asks, “And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right?” (v. 57)? How might listening to the voices of others keep us from making the decisive, personal choice to accept God's pardon? How can we ensure we “judge” rightly?
6. This passage holds together warning, urgency, and mercy. Which parts of Jesus' teaching here feel challenging to you, and why? Which of His words feel hopeful? How does this passage deepen your understanding of Jesus as both Judge and Savior?

Apply: What is one area of your life where you sense Jesus calling you to respond with greater urgency—whether in repentance, reconciliation, obedience, or trust? What is one concrete step you can take this week toward this end?

Pray: Pray that God would help us see Jesus clearly—both in the seriousness of His warnings and in the depth of His mercy. Ask for the ability to comprehend and to live with both the incredible hope and the great urgency to which Jesus calls us in this passage.