

# Luke 12:49 – 13:30

## *The Narrow Way*

Image Church // The Gospel of Luke: Inverted Kingdom Wk. 20

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### Introduction

Good morning Image Family! I hope you're doing well, Hey listen if you're **NEW** with us we're so glad that you're here with us this morning! I want to invite you to stop by our **FTG Tent**...

Also, *if you're here and you want to get connected*, we would love to help you take a next step and you can do that by stopping by our connection center tent right outside!

\*Hey, we got a lot of ground to cover so let's do this- **if you have your bible go ahead and turn to Luke 12**...

As you're turning there, for those of you that are *new* with us, we've been a series called **Inverted Kingdom** where we've been walking through **the gospel of Luke**, and we've been looking at the life and ministry of Jesus and talking about the implications that it has on our lives...

What Jesus has showed us is that He has a radical impact on those who believe, resulting in ***a whole life reorientation around God and His Kingdom*** that comes through total submission and surrender to Jesus...

And what we have to understand is that this is very different from just being religious, or simply affiliating with Christianity, or even being in proximity to the things of Christianity by attending a church gathering when it's convenient, or doing some Christina things that you inherited through family traditions...

It's so important that we understand this, because the reality is, there will be many that assume that they are saved, but in the end, Jesus will say otherwise...

This is a gut-wrenching reality and it's exactly where Jesus is headed in our text this morning...

So, let's pick up in **Chapter 12** where Jesus has just warned His disciples to live a life that is ready for His return...

Remember, Jesus came as the agent of restoration, but for total restoration to come Jesus had to first deal with the thing that brought about brokenness in our world which is sin...

Jesus would deal with sin breaking down the barrier between us and God giving us access to God's **Kingdom**...

And then He tells His followers that He's going to return and bring the completion this new Kingdom one day where He will make ALL THINGS NEW and that we're to live with anticipation of His return...

Which means we're all about the **Kingdom** that Jesus gave us access to- Our lives are to be governed by God- and the great part is that Jesus shows us what that looks like...

Well, now Jesus is going to shift from **anticipating** His return and He's going to move back to what's happening in His **present ministry** that He's going to lay out in **3 sections** here at the end of **Chapter 12**...

And what you're going to see is that it's going to lead us into **CH. 13**, and what you're going to see is that there's an incredible flow to everything we're going to be walking through this morning...

And it's all going to culminate to one of the scariest statements that Jesus makes during His time on earth... *So put on your seatbelts, buckle up, we're about to go in this morning*...

## Luke 12:49-59

### NOT PEACE BUT DIVISION

**49** "I came to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already set ablaze! **50** But I have a baptism to undergo, and how it consumes me until it is finished! **51** Do you think that I came here to bring peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.

**52** From now on, five in one household will be divided: three against two, and two against three.

**53** They will be divided, father against son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

**Explain:** Ok so it's really important that we understand what's happening here because what Jesus says here is taken incredibly out of context a lot...

This is the section that the *culture warriors* use a lot to wage war on society- thinking the goal is to go blast people with truth and create division assuming that they are bringing the fire Jesus is talking about...

Jesus is not at all talking about waging war on culture, He's saying that His coming is going to bring about judgment based on how people respond to Him...

But that Judgement won't come until He completes what he came here to do...

In addition to that His coming will create division, a division that's cause by rejecting Him... That some will embrace His finished work and others will not...

Jesus uses the framework from **Micah 7:6** to drive home His point- In **Micah 7** Israel has turned away from God and the result in **verse 6** is that there's crisis in the home...

The same will be true for those who reject Jesus, it will result in crisis within the home...

So, understand that what Jesus says here *isn't* something that you're called to, this is not a *cause* that you fight for... This is something that comes as a **result** of whether or not people receive Jesus or reject Him...

Here's the big takeaway from what Jesus says here, there is a crisis looming as a result of who Jesus is and how people will respond...

Jesus and everything surrounding Him and what He does brings people to a place of decision, and the decision about who Jesus is will bring division... You don't seek this- it is a reality that will exist...

It is not a badge of honor it is a mark of sorrow... At the end of **Chapter 13** Jesus weeps over Jerusalem's rejection...

Then look at what Jesus says next as he highlights the nature of the time in history where this crisis is brewing...

### INTERPRETING THE TIME

**Verse 54** He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, right away you say, 'A storm is coming,' and so it does. **55** And when the south wind is blowing, you say, 'It's going to be hot,' and it is. **56** Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky, but why don't you know how to interpret this present time?"

**Explain:** Jesus is saying yall know weather patterns and the impact is has on the environment, but you're missing what God is doing through me!

Jesus has clearly revealed the nature of the time that the OT has pointed to that they know so well that Jesus has shown and fulfilled, but they are missing it!!

**Example:** *Women with a nail sticking out of her head...*

And then Jesus goes on to give an illustration that serves as a warning, again pointing to the nature of the time in light of who Jesus is...

### SETTLING ACCOUNTS

**Verse 57** "Why don't you judge for yourselves what is right? **58** As you are going with your adversary to the ruler, make an effort to settle with him on the way. Then he won't drag you before the judge, the judge hand you over to the bailiff, and the bailiff throw you into prison. **59** I tell you, you will never get out of there until you have paid the last penny."

**Explain:** The adversary (or accuser) here represents God, and he's saying y'all better get things settled with God while there's still time, because once you get to court it will be too late- and rather than seeing Jesus for who He is and believing in Him and trusting Him to settle the dispute between you and God- you will be held responsible before God!

Again, we see the weightiness of the time and the call to decide who Jesus is...

**Apply:** Listen, like those that Jesus is talking to, we are at a place of decision in this life to choose what we believe about Jesus...

The question is have we decipher the times? Do we see what the Bible says- do we understand who Jesus is?? Do you see that you're faced with the same weighty decision... Do you see it?!?

Will Jesus pay our debt, or will we stand to pay it ourselves being cast away from God for all of eternity?!?

For those of you that have embraced who Jesus is- what you need to see up to this point is that it following Jesus will be costly- you will be rejected by some and it will create division- some of you are experiencing this in your own home now...

But understand that it's worth it and it far outweighs the cost of not surrendering to Jesus....

Let's keep reading as we move into **Chapter 13**...

### Luke 13:1-17

#### REPENT OR PERISH

**1** At that time, some people came and reported to him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. **2** And he responded to them, "Do you think that these Galileans were more sinful than all the other Galileans because they suffered these things? **3** No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as well. **4** Or those eighteen that the tower in Siloam fell on and killed—do you think they were more sinful than all the other people who live in Jerusalem? **5** No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as well."

**Explain:** Jesus is asked to theologially explain what happened here... Per Jesus fashion He uses the moment to make a call for repentance...

The people around Jesus assumed that this happened as a result of their sin, which means that they also assumed that they were *better* than these people that were tragically killed because this hasn't happened to them... They thought God's blessing was one them based on this not happening to them...

The point Jesus makes here is pressing beyond the fact **that** these people died and pointing to the fact that **that all will die** and the only thing that matters is whether or not they have responded in faith to God...

And what Jesus does is confront their sense of security...

See based on their assumptions, their security was in their activity and not on their faith in God's activity that's being revealed through Jesus...

Actions for them was the means of their standing before God, and Jesus is saying that's not your activity that saves you it's reorientation of your heart through repentance...

**Repentance means a change of mind and heart that abandons your former ways and embraces a new way of life in light of who God is and what He's done.**

**Repentance** is realizing that your actions don't measure up in light of who God is and experiencing a change of mind and heart where you stop trying to be the solution and you look to God's solution...

**Repentance** isn't feeling bad or saying sorry- it is a life reorientation that happens through faith in God's provision through Jesus who was perfect in your place...

**Example:** *I am terrible with directions and maps and getting places I get lost all the time... When I finally find out I'm going the wrong way (typically from my wife) the answer isn't drive faster in the wrong direction it's turn around...*<sup>1</sup>

And this is isn't a one-time thing, this is a whole-life thing...

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<sup>1</sup> Some thoughts from, and example here rified off of Stephen Witmer: *Unless you stop loving sin.*

It's understanding who God is perfect and Holy, and that you don't deserve Him and yet in his incredible grace and mercy He's given you access to Himself and access to His Kingdom through the finished work of Jesus who accomplished everything in your place...

- Perfection and punishment- new life!

And it's understanding that when we sin- we're rebelling against God the King and we're saying that what He and His Kingdom have to offer are not good enough... Its treason- it's degrading and disrespecting the King...<sup>2</sup>

**Repentance** is resetting our heart and mind on the finished work of Jesus and reorienting our lives around the King in light of what He's done for us... Turning our eyes from our sin to the faithfulness of God through His forgiveness that's extended to us through Jesus!

And when we reset our minds on Jesus- it will result in a reorientation of our lives that's displayed through our actions!

Let's see how all of this plays out by looking at the parable that Jesus is about to give...

#### **THE PARABLE OF THE BARREN FIG TREE**

**Verse 6** And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree that was planted in his vineyard. He came looking for fruit on it and found none. **7** He told the vineyard worker, 'Listen, for three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it even waste the soil?'

**8** "But he replied to him, 'Sir, leave it this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. **9** Perhaps it will produce fruit next year, but if not, you can cut it down.' "

**Explain:** The fig tree is a picture of Israel and its lack of fruit and God's disgust with Israel and His pressing judgment...

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

Notice because there's no repentance (no turning to God, no embracing Jesus), and the result is that there's no fruit...

Understand fruit is what flows **from** repentance- it has to- it takes a new mind and a new heart to produce God honoring fruit...

Take away repentance and you just have actions that you're coming to God with, and those actions accomplish nothing because you cannot save yourself, you cannot make yourself right before God only Jesus can do that and you receive it through repentance...

**But here's what I want you to see**, in the midst of a fruitless Israel we get a glimpse at the **patience of God** allowing the nation once more chance to respond to Him in faith through Jesus...

#### **Appeal and Apply:**

Listen **if you're here and you're not a Christian** and you would own that- do you see the patient grace of God right now?? Do you understand that God in His sovereignty has brought you hear this morning to hear about His goodness and His grace that's that been revealed through the finished work of Jesus?!?

- The question is how will you respond? Will you reject Jesus or receive Him?

**For those of you that are here and would say that you're a Christian**, do you have any fruit in your life? Actions are an indicator of where your heart is... **Activity isn't a means of salvation, but it is evidence of it...**

For some you're claiming to be a Christian, but you consistently have no fruit in your life...

I'm not talking about being nice to people or being generally moral- I'm talking about the things that Jesus has helped up for what it means to follow Him...

**Luke 9:23-24:** If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me. **24** For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of me will save it.

- This is a radical way of living that is characterized by Jesus!
- Where your life is all about His Kingdom and not yours...
  - Radical generosity, radical intentionality to advance the message and ministry of Jesus... This is a whole life reorientation...
    - Engaging with those in need, loving your neighbor, engaging with the

Be honest with yourself right now... Maybe this is you- you have no fruit of the very thing that you claim to be true about your life...

Would you see the patient grace of God this morning and would you truly receive what Jesus has accomplished for you- would you allow it to settle in your heart... Would you embrace it...

**For those that are Christians-** do you see that this was your story, that when you should have been cut down, God said hold on so that His grace could come to you...

*Alright now watch this, watch how incredible this is, Jesus just talked about the patience of God, now we're going to see it in action through a miracle... A miracle designed to yet again show them who Jesus is...*

#### **HEALING A DAUGHTER OF ABRAHAM**

**10** As he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath, **11** a woman was there who had been disabled by a spirit for over eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. **12** When Jesus saw her, he called out to her, "**Woman, you are free of your disability.**" **13** Then he laid his hands on her, and instantly she was restored and began to glorify God.

**14** But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, responded by telling the crowd, “There are six days when work should be done; therefore come on those days and be healed and not on the Sabbath day.”

**15** But the Lord answered him and said, “Hypocrites! Doesn’t each one of you untie his ox or donkey from the feeding trough on the Sabbath and lead it to water? **16** Satan has bound this woman, a daughter of Abraham, for eighteen years—shouldn’t she be untied from this bondage on the Sabbath day?”

**17** When he had said these things, all his adversaries were humiliated, but the whole crowd was rejoicing over all the glorious things he was doing.

**Explain:**

*V. 17 is key... the reaction here is key... There are only 2 types of responses to Jesus...*

After performing this miracle, and freeing this woman from Satan, Jesus turns to talk about the Kingdom that He’s proclaiming that has authority and rule over Satan...

## Luke 13:18-30

### THE PARABLES OF THE MUSTARD SEED AND OF THE LEAVEN

**18** He said, therefore, “What is the kingdom of God like, and what can I compare it to? **19** It’s like a mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds of the sky nested in its branches.”

**20** Again he said, “What can I compare the kingdom of God to? **21** It’s like leaven that a woman took and mixed into fifty pounds of flour until all of it was leavened.”

*Explain:* What Jesus is showing here is that the Kingdom, though it starts out small and it seems deceptively weak, will grow and transform into something that cannot be stopped and it will penetrate the world... Take heart, God is building His Kingdom!!

The question implied is will you trust the God who’s developing this Kingdom that you see evidence of?

And then after this Jesus would begin His Journey to Jerusalem...

Teaching along the way...

### THE NARROW WAY

**22** He went through one town and village after another, teaching and making his way to Jerusalem. **23** “Lord,” someone asked him, “are only a few people going to be saved?”

He said to them, **24** “Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because I tell you, many will try to enter and won’t be able

**25** once the homeowner gets up and shuts the door. Then you will stand outside and knock on the door, saying, ‘Lord, open up for us!’

He will answer you, ‘I don’t know you or where you’re from.’ **26** Then you will say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’

**27** But he will say, ‘I tell you, I don’t know you or where you’re from. Get away from me, all you evildoers!’ **28** There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth in that place, when you see Abraham,

Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but yourselves thrown out. **29** They will come from east and west, from north and south, to share the banquet in the kingdom of God.

**30** Note this: Some who are last will be first, and some who are first will be last.

Jesus flips the question from “will only a few be saved?” to “will you be among the saved?” ... You thought you would be at the Banquet one day with the patriarchs, but the reality is many of you will not be—this is the reversal at the end...

See, they thought that they were good based on their *affiliation* to a people group, rather than embracing the person of Christ...

But Jesus keeps pointing them to the reality that He’s the only one who can give access... And that happens through repentance and submission...

Here's one of the biggest things that you need to see here: *just because you've been exposed to the truth doesn't mean you have it...*<sup>3</sup>

*Proximity to the things of Jesus is very different from a relationship with the person of Jesus...*

And I want to unpack what a relationship with Jesus actually looks like because I really think we miss it a lot...

Jesus coming to *save us from Hell*, vs. *reuniting us with God and His Kingdom...*<sup>4</sup>

**Let me ask you this:** Does the way that you engage with the church show that Christianity is just something you're affiliated with??

- Think about affiliation...
- If your involvement with the message and ministry of Jesus through the vehicle of the local church doesn't supersede simple affiliation then you have to question your perspective on what it actually means to be a Christian...

**Parents,** let me ask you this- does the way that you engage with the church and with the mission of God show your kids a casual version of Christianity by affiliation, or does it show them a deeper commitment to the person of Jesus?

- **Image Kids: Fruit of the Spirit- Lunch Aug 8<sup>th</sup> ...**

**What about what you do with your money?**

<sup>3</sup> Bock, D. L. (1996). *Luke: 9:51-24:53* (Vol. 2, p. 1188).

<sup>4</sup> Some thoughts here gathered from Charles Martin, *They Turned the World Upside Down*.

## Conclusion [VAMP]

### 3 Key Themes-

1. Jesus is God in the flesh that came to bring mankind access to the Kingdom of God... Do you see and believe?

2. Repentance is the means of access to God's Kingdom...

- Turning to Jesus...
- Repentance is not a one-time thing...

3. A life of repentance brings about reorientation where our lives are about God's Kingdom.

Call to respond...

We're going to do something a little different this morning... In light of the weightiness...

Appeal to those that are *not Christians...*

- **Believe and receive!**

Appeal to those who would say that they are Christians...

- I'm calling you to question your surrender...
- Press in here...