

Luke 12.35-59

The Dark Side of the Good News

*Christmas Night > Angels to Shepherds:*

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

Luke 2:14

FAVORITE TITLE of Jesus: PRINCE of PEACE > brings God's SHALOM

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

Ch 12 ENDS with Fiery BLAZE of JUDGMENT > Urgent Warning to Find Safety

**Hard Task must be DONE to WIN PEACE: to BRING God's FAVOR to Man**

### 1. His Agonizing Accomplishment

vs. 49,50 "I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is completed!

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

#### a. Anguish

vs. 49,50 "How I wish it were already kindled!" "How distressed I am!"

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.

Bishop J.C. 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

Our "God is a consuming fire" Hebrews 12.29

See, the LORD is coming with fire, and his chariots are like a whirlwind; he will bring down his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. Isaiah 66:15

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire. Luke 3.16,17

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

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

BAPTISM into DEATH upon the CROSS > Marching to JERUSALEM

For Jesus - Judgment meant the 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 is ONLY PATH to GLORY

b. Achievement - Do NOT CONFUSE Jesus' Anguish for UNCERTAINTY

Jesus SAME Time 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

FINISHED WORK OF X > Cross NOT FATE, MISTAKE or ACCIDENT

HE IS NO LONGER IN AGONY – Hanging from CROSS - Problem of Crucifix

After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied Isaiah 53:11

LIVING JESUS HAS SAME ZEAL FOR OUR SALVATION TODAY - DO WE?

GOSPEL SPEAKS OF PEACE > NEED FOR BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING

...prophets and priests...dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. 'Peace, peace,' they say, when there is no peace. Jeremiah 6:14

NOT PEACE OF THE WORLD'S DEFINITION: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. John 14:27

NO TOTAL PEACE as LONG as SOME LOVE JESUS & OTHERS HATE HIM

## 2. His Anxious Appeal

Jesus links FUTURE PLAN of God with PRESENT FAITHFULNESS of Man

a. Dressed for Service 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus in View > Salvation and Judgment

Searchlight of JUDGMENT > focused on SPIRITUAL RESPONSIBILITY

v. 35 "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning..."

SAME Command given to ISRAEL who was to MARCH on Night of EXODUS

Men wore long FLOWING ROBES: Attractive but NOT Useful to Work or Run SERIOUS Task > Bottom Hem TUCKED into BELT around their WAIST to Serve

v. 36 ...like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him.

// Like FIVE VIRGINS with OIL in LAMPS > Servants AWAKE are BLESSED

Wedding FEAST could LAST a WEEK > END TIME was NOT DEFINITE

Like WAITER in Restaurant who Actually LOOKS to SERVE Customers  
 NOT have to WAVE ARMS like your LANDING PLANE to get the CHECK

Like BABYSITTER: Make sure Bowls from Chocolate Ice Cream Washed/Shelved  
 Several Word Pictures > Same Basic Truth > BE READY for Unexpected Surprises

v. 38 It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night.

Jews DIVIDED Night into 3 Periods / Watches > 3<sup>rd</sup> Watch see SUN RISE

vs. 39,40 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

Jesus to Church in Sardis: "If you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you." Revelation 3:3

2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus > Will be PERSONAL, VISIBLE, GLORIOUS, IMMINENT

Coming as SON OF MAN > Receives Glorious Kingdom from Ancient of Days

v. 42 The Lord answered, "Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time?"

JOY of Master > GOOD STEWARD – Resources, Responsibilities in Good Hands

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

God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.  
 1 Timothy 3.15

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

b. Division over the Savior > People Hearing, Thinking, Jesus FORCES Choice

Ch 12 > Luke keeps Changing PERSPECTIVE of Camera

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

v. 1 when a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so that they were trampling on one another, Jesus began to speak first to his disciples

vs. 13,14 Someone in the crowd said to him...Jesus replied,

v. 22 Then Jesus said to his disciples...

v. 54 He said to the crowd...

v. 41 Peter asked, "Lord, are you telling this parable to us, or to everyone?"

Words of PETER have IMPORTANT Message for Luke's Original Audience

Church of Risen Lord being Established around Roman Empire of 1<sup>st</sup> Century

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

You may THINK you're SITTING in CHAIR of PETER in Rome RIGHT NOW

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

Places of leadership offer unusual temptations to the abuse of others and misuses of power, and leadership positions in the church are not exempt. Fred Craddock

There IS a DIVISION between People > NOT Disciples / Crowds or Clergy / Laity

Bible > ONE FINAL JUDGMENT > Described with VARIOUS, VIVID Pictures

Judgment Seat of Christ = Great White Throne = ONE Final Reckoning for ALL

Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to *everlasting life*, others to shame and *everlasting contempt*.  
Daniel 12.2

a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out —*those who have done good* will rise to live, and *those who have done evil* will rise to be condemned  
John 5.28-29

there will be a resurrection of *both the righteous and the wicked* Acts 24.15

UNSEEN Line thru ALL WORLD: Nations, Offices, Schools, Families, Churches

v. 52,53 From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against 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

JESUS DIVIDES FAMILIES – FRIENDSHIPS – PARTNERSHIPS - CHURCHES

Will HE BE OUR ULTIMATE LOYALTY AND LOVE?

MESSAGE OF PEACE BECOMES THE CAUSE OF DIVISION

Jesus, "My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice."  
Luke 8:21

GOSPEL AND THE WORLD WILL NOT MIX // OIL AND WATER

Simeon said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed."  
Luke 2.34,35

What misery is mine!... All men lie in wait to shed blood; each hunts his brother with a net...Now is the time of their confusion. Do not trust a neighbor; put no confidence in a friend. Even with her who lies in your embrace be careful of your

words. For a son dishonors his father, a daughter rises up against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law-- a man's enemies are the members of his own household. But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me. Micah 7.1-7

### c. Degrees of Sentencing DEGREES of PUNISHMENT in the AFTER-Life

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

DIVISION between Faithful Servants & those Abusing their Privileges

Back to PETER'S Question > YES! This ESPECIALLY Applies to you a LEADER  
Preachers – Parents – Ministry Leaders – All Believers Teach by Life & Lip

#### 1) Agonizing LOOOOONG Time > Master NOT Coming! PLAY TIME!

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 – Did 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

#### 2) All Accountable – those who KNOW and even those DO NOT KNOW

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.

PUNISHMENT for Sins of COMMISSION AND OMISSION / Do and Don't Do

Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins. James 4.17

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 Thing as TOTAL IGNORANCE of God > Therefore NO EXCUSE

Few Weeks ago China Stopped at 10 am REMEMBER Victims of EARTHQUAKE

Man lost Loved Ones > "I hope they found peace Buddhism promises"

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. Romans 1.18-20

Our very ignorance is part of our sin.

Bishop J.C. Ryle

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

When I consult the New Testament, 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, Bishop of Caesarea, 370 AD

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

vs. 54-57 He said to the crowd: "When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, 'It's going to rain,' and it does. And when the south wind blows, you say, 'It's going to be hot,' and it is. Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret this present time? "Why don't you judge for yourselves what is right?"

KNEW WEATHER PATTERNS of MEDITERRANEAN  
 IGNORE THE VERY PRESENCE OF GOD IN THE WORLD

They understood the winds of earth, but not the winds of God; they could discern the sky, but not the heavens. Leon Morris

3) Awesome! Jesus stories often have TWIST – here is a SHOCKER

SERVANT is SUPPOSED to Serve > Saying THANKS would be Big SURPRISE

“Suppose one of you had a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Would he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, ‘Come along now and sit down to eat’? Would he not rather say, ‘Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink’? Would he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do?... ” Luke 17.7-9

OBVIOUS IMPLIED Answer is OF COURSE NOT! Master NOT Thank Servant!  
 MASTER of Universe – LORD of all UNIVERSE – Comes to SERVE & DIE!

vs. 37,38 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.

For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. Luke 22.27

d. Day of Salvation SOME Servants EXPECT MASTER - SOME SHOCKED

SOME BEATEN, SOME BLESSED = JUDGMENT DAY

NOT Relate to YOU!?! No WILL, No Funeral Plan - NOT GOING TO DIE

Judea - CONFLICTING LEGAL SYSTEMS - Jewish and Roman  
 ABUSE OF JUSTICE -play one off the other - County, State, Federal  
 Served EVICTION Notices in LA County: Clever People 1 YEAR Rent FREE!

SENTENCE DELAYED - BOGGED DOWN IN APPEALS PROCESS  
 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

vs. 58-59 As you are going with your adversary to the magistrate, try hard to be reconciled to him on the way, or he may drag you off to the judge, and the judge turn you over to the officer, and the officer throw you into prison. I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

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

GOD IS THE 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 the SINNER

NOT PURGATORY - NO WAY OUT EVER - SOUND TERRIBLE?? IT IS!!!

The Dark Side of the Good News > IGNORE Jesus to your ETERNAL Peril

Either Jesus does it in our stead by his death on the cross, or we will pay every last cent before God, resulting in a debt we can never totally extinguish. Darrell Bock

LAWSUIT is in Progress > WRIT being ISSUED > Heavy Sentence IMPENDING

IF IGNORE the PLAIN Signs of God's PLAN > Can Only BLAME Yourself

SPARE No Effort to GET RIGHT with GOD > TRY HARD to be RECONCILED

The advent of the Carpenter of Nazareth is the most significant happening in all human history. But the majority of men, who can see meanings and connections and relationships in most of the phenomena in the world around them, and all the more so as their civilization becomes more sophisticated and rationalistic, are rank

hypocrites when they look at Jesus Christ and pretend that they can make nothing of the remarkable facts of his life, death, and resurrection. Michael Wilcock

The Dark Side of the Good News > SPURN Gospel > Seal Eternal Fate

It's not dark yet, but it's getting there. Bob Dylan

Still DAY of MERCY & GRACE – Day of OPPORTUNITY – Day to REPENT

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.  
2 Peter 3:9

BANNER of VICTORY and HOPE > FLIES over the Gospel of LUKE

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost. Luke 19.10

WRITTEN from PERSPECTIVE of ACCOMPLISHMENT: Risen & Ascended  
ONLY Luke details HISTORICAL EVENT of ASCENSION 2 X's Gospel & Acts

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.  
Luke 24.50,51

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 OUTFRAN

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

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35. "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, 36. like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. 37. 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. 38. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night. 39. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. 40. You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

41. Peter asked, "Lord, are you telling this parable to us, or to everyone?"

42. The Lord answered, "Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? 43. It will be good

for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns. 44. I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

45. 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.

46. 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. 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. 48. But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked. 49. "I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!

50. But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is completed!

51. Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. 52. From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, 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 daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law." 54. He said to the crowd: "When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, 'It's going to rain,' and it does.

55. And when the south wind blows, 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. How is it that you don't know how to interpret this present time? 57. "Why don't you judge for yourselves what is right? 58. As you are going with your adversary to the magistrate, try hard to be reconciled to him on the way, or he may drag you off to the judge, and the judge turn you over to the officer, and the officer throw you into prison. 59. I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.