

- I) **V49-50 INTRO: I came to send fire on the earth and how I wish it were already kindled**
 - a) **Jesus is standing outside of the home of a Pharisee who had invited Him to dinner**
 - 1) **While at the dinner, Jesus had clearly spoken concerning the hypocrisy of the Pharisees**
 - 2) **In His teaching, He had made it clear that the Pharisees were overly concerned with rules**
- II) **HE SAID: That they were concerned about outer formalities and disregarded the spirit of the law**
 - a) **By their man made rules, they actually closed the door to those who would enter in to heaven**
 - 1) **They were guilty of living for the praise of man, and did not genuinely care about others**
- III) **HE MADE IT CLEAR: That they cared more about outer appearance of righteousness**
 - a) **This was revealed by their concern about tithing of herbs and forgetting the more important things, loving the best seats in church, thriving on public recognition, and loading people down with soul killing and burdensome rules**
 - 1) **THE RESULT: The Pharisees at the dinner began to verbally assault Him**
 - 2) **Instead of hearing His rebuke, and repenting, they sought to entangle Him in His speech**
 - 3) **They are intent on finding fault that they might form an accusation against Him**
- IV) **IN THE MEANTIME: A large group of people had gathered together to hear what He was saying**
 - a) **Jesus had stepped outside of the Pharisee's house, and a crowd has formed**
 - 1) **The Pharisees continued asking Jesus questions, and the people pressed in to hear**
 - 2) **It is probable that the people crowding around Him think favorably of the Pharisees**
 - 3) **They were in the most danger, and needed to hear what He had to say**
- V) **HE CONTINUED TEACHING THEM: Encouraging them to pursue what really matters**
 - a) **What really matters is simply enjoying fellowship with God and enjoying relationships**
 - 1) **It is in rejoicing that the Lord has opened up the gates of heaven to you (V32)**
- VI) **AS HE WAS SPEAKING: He closed by exhorting His disciples to live in a state of readiness**
 - a) **He was already preparing them for His death, burial, and resurrection**
 - 1) **He had alluded to this in His giving of the sign of Jonah (11:30)**
 - 2) **He also alluded to this when He told them not to fear those who could kill the body (12:4-5)**
- VII) **FINALLY: He had to them to be busy serving the Lord until He returns for them**
 - a) **They were to be faithful stewards, awaiting the return of their master from a wedding feast**
 - 1) **If they were faithful, they would receive a great reward**
 - 2) **ULTIMATELY: As so many had been instructed, they would be most accountable**
- VIII) **V49-50 CONTINUING: I came to send fire on the earth and how I wish it were already kindled**
 - a) **JESUS' PURPOSE: I came to send fire on earth**
 - 1) **FIRE DOES TWO THINGS: It consumes and it purifies**
- IX) **JESUS IS SAYING: The He desires His work of salvation to be complete, soon**
 - a) **When He is crucified, He will be providing the sacrifice that will satisfy His Father's demands**
 - 1) **His blood will be shed, He will be buried, but will arise on the third day and send the Spirit**
 - 2) **Jn 15:26 When the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me**
 - 3) **THE HS: Will purify believers, empower them, and set the stage for ultimate judgment**

- I) **V50 BUT: I have a baptism to be baptized with and how distressed I am till it is accomplished**
 - a) This all hinges on one thing: His death on the cross
 - 1) What does He feel about this: is He sad that He is leaving earth? Did He enjoy being on earth

- II) **HE WAS DISTRESSED: On one level, He was in anguish as He thought of the suffering**
 - a) **DISTRESSED: To press together; to be held completely, as a prisoner; afflicted; constrained**
 - 1) His mind was on this one thing, and it caused anguish to Him
 - 2) **STILL: This is what He came to do, and He was ready for it to occur**
 - 3) **Jn 12:27 Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? `Father, save Me from this hour'?
But for this purpose I came to this hour.**
 - 4) **Mk 14:33-36 He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began to be troubled and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch." He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will."**

- III) **V51-53 DO: You suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you not at all but rather divisions**
 - a) **COMMON BELIEF AT THAT TIME: Messiah comes, and peace**

- IV) **DURING THIS TIME: A basic set of expectations concerning the coming of Messiah had developed**
 - a) **FIRST: Before Messiah would arrive, there would be a time of terrible tribulation**
 - b) **SECOND: Before the Coming of Messiah, a forerunner would be sent, like Elijah**
 - c) **THIRD: After these two events, Messiah would appear, and establish His kingdom**
 - d) **FOURTH: The unbelieving nations would ally to fight against Messiah**
 - e) **FIFTH: The nations opposing Messiah would be destroyed for their opposition**
 - f) **SIXTH: Jerusalem would be restored, and be the City of the great King**
 - g) **SEVENTH: The Jews scattered throughout the earth would be re gathered to Israel**
 - h) **EIGHTH: Israel would become the center of the World, all nations being subject to Messiah**
 - i) **NINTH: After Messiah began to rule, the earth would now enter into eternal peace and joy**

- V) **JESUS: Is correcting the common misconception that the disciples were aware of**
 - a) **INSTEAD: Devotion to Jesus, instead of unifying, would actually cause divisions**
 - 1) **Is He or is He not the only way to God**
 - 2) **Ac 4:12 Salvation is found in no-one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved**
 - 3) **1Ti 2:5 For there is one God and *one Mediator* between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus**
 - 4) **Mt 12:30 He who is not with me is against me; and he who does not gather with me scatters abroad**

- VI) **V51-53 DEVOTION CAN CAUSE HOMES TO BECOME DIVIDED**
 - a) **DIVISION: Complete and often permanent separation; divided into opposing parts**
 - 1) **Some are afraid of losing their families: Not always the case (Frankie and Tracie)**
 - 2) **THE FACT IS: Jesus is worth following, whatever the cost may be:**
 - 3) **Ps. 27:10 Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me.**
 - 4) **Jn 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."**

- I) **EXERCISE WISDOM IN THE HOME: Do not go out of your way to intentionally antagonize**
 - a) If you cannot share openly, live for the Lord
 - 1) 1 Pe. 3:1-2 Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe (aggressively reject) the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.

- II) **THE SAD FACT IS: Some are going to completely, and finally reject you**
 - a) What are you to do when this happens:
 - 1) 1 Co. 7:15-16 If the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace. How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

- III) **V54-56 THEN: He also said *to the multitudes* Whenever you see a cloud rising out of the west**
 - a) POINT: You can predict the natural, but cannot see the *SIGNS OF THE TIMES*

- IV) **THIS IS TRUE TO THIS DAY: We have experts predicting trends in all areas of life**
 - a) Stock market experts: Gold and silver, up and down, interest up and down
 - b) Fashion experts, entertainment, music, childcare, marriage, and family
 - c) Trends in education, politics, ecology, real estate, and even religion

- V) **THE FACT IS: People can be capable of identifying trends, but remain blind to spiritual truth**
 - a) Jesus is saying that they are hypocritical because they pretend they do not notice the times
 - 1) They can see, but are unwilling to discern the times
 - 2) You can see rain clouds, and feel the south wind blow but cannot see the clouds of grace or the wind of the Holy Spirit

- VI) **YOU PAY: More attention to constantly changing weather conditions than you do about the spirit**
 - a) You cannot see that your Messiah is standing right before you
 - 1) You are so caught up with the material, that you cannot even perceive the spiritual
 - 2) You cannot see who I am

- VII) **V57 YES: And why even of yourselves do you not judge what is right**
 - a) QUESTION: Why are you letting others direct the way you think of Me
 - 1) Why not make up your own mind instead of allowing others to influence you away from Me
 - 2) IT IS LIKE HIS QUESTION: Who do men say that I the Son of Man am

- VIII) **V58-59 WHEN: You go with your adversary to the magistrate make every effort along the way to**
 - a) He closes with a simple illustration: If you are taken to human court, you try to settle quickly
 - 1) Before you are standing before a judge, you should try *to settle out of court*
 - 2) If you can, you avoid being dragged before a judge, who may not side with you!

- IX) **POINT: You have a heavenly judge who will judge you entirely based on your merit**
 - a) You are going to be found guilty, and you will be judged and never set free
 - 1) From this, you shall have no hope of ever being set free, so settle accounts now!
 - 2) Heb 9:27, Jn 5:24