

WWJ5- Fire And Faithfulness

Text: Luke 12:49–56

Series: Walking With Jesus

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Date: August 17, 2025

I. Introduction: The Moment of Decision

- There are moments when everything changes. A point of no return.
- Jesus' words in this passage are not mild or vague—they are urgent, uncomfortable, and decisive.
- Jesus didn't come just to inspire or teach nice morals. He came to set things ablaze, with fire, with truth, and with the demand to decide.

II. Jesus Came to Bring Fire (Luke 12:49)

- “I came to cast fire on the earth...”
 - Shocking language, this is not gentle Jesus meek and mild.
 - Fire in Scripture symbolizes **judgment, purification, and presence**:
 - *Judgment* (Sodom and Gomorrah, Hebrews 10:27)
 - *Purification* (Malachi 3:2–3; the refiner's fire)
 - *Presence* (Burning bush, pillar of fire, Pentecost)
- **Not random destruction**: This is holy disruption.
 - Jesus wants to **burn away the false, refine the real, and reveal what's eternal.**

III. Jesus Had to Face the Fire First (Luke 12:50)

- “I have a baptism to be baptized with...”
 - This “baptism” is not water: it's **His suffering, the cross, the wrath of sin's judgment.**
 - Jesus is **under pressure**- His mission is urgent, but the cross must come first.
- **The fire He brings first consumes Him**:
 - The Judge is judged.
 - The fire that would destroy us falls on Him.
- This isn't just about end-times judgment, this is about *Jesus taking judgment for us.*

IV. Jesus Divides Before He Unites (Luke 12:51–53)

- **“Do you think I’ve come to bring peace? No... but division.”**
 - Jesus *does* bring peace, **peace with God, peace within**, and ultimately **peace in the kingdom**.
 - But first, He brings division, because **allegiance to Jesus demands a choice**.
 - Even families may be divided.
 - The kingdom disrupts the status quo.
- **We must count the cost:**
 - Following Jesus may strain relationships.
 - But the **call to discipleship isn’t comfort, it’s allegiance**.

V. Jesus Demands We Read the Signs (Luke 12:54–56)

- Jesus rebukes the crowd for interpreting the weather better than the times.
 - “You know when it’s going to rain, but you can’t see what’s happening right in front of you.”
- **Discernment failure:**
 - They missed what God was doing in their midst.
 - They were spiritually asleep during the most important moment of history.
- **Warning for us:** It’s not enough to admire Jesus or analyze Scripture, **you must respond**.

VI. Three Lessons for the Road of Discipleship

1. The fire that judges is also the fire that refines.

- Jesus’ fire reveals and purifies, not just destroys.
- He walks through the fire **before us** and **for us**.
- *If you belong to Jesus, the fire won’t destroy you, it will refine you.*

2. The cost of allegiance is real, but so is the reward.

- Discipleship will divide. It will cost you something.
- But **losing the world is better than losing your soul**.
- *Jesus didn’t promise comfort, He promised a cross.*

3. Don’t just read the signs, respond to them.

- The Spirit is still speaking. The time is now.
- Respond in obedience, repentance, reconciliation—whatever Jesus is calling you to.
- *It’s not enough to see the fire, you’ve got to step into the light.*

VII. Conclusion: A Fork in the Road

- **This passage is a holy interruption.**
- Jesus isn't looking for a lukewarm yes. He's calling for full allegiance.
- **What is Jesus setting on fire in your life today?**
 - What needs to be burned away?
 - What needs to be refined?
 - What decision do you need to make?

"Now is the moment. Jesus has come. The fire is lit. It's time to decide."