

SETTLE IT NOW // Luke 12:54-59

Message from the series, The Gospel of Luke

In this passage, Jesus turns his attention from his disciples to the crowd and he also returns to the theme with which the chapter began—hypocrisy. Jesus accuses the crowds of hypocrisy; they can come to an accurate conclusion about the weather based on minimal evidence, but they do not come to the right conclusion about Jesus based on maximal evidence. Jesus is saying that he doesn't believe them when they say they don't know who he is. They don't need more information; they need spiritual regeneration.

Jesus uses a parable to demonstrate the fate awaiting those who are like the crowd. A lawsuit is in progress against them; charges have been filed in heaven. Those who ignore their situation, who refuse to settle their account with God, do so at their own peril.

Five Reasons to Settle Your Account with God Now:**1. The weight of your sin will only get worse.**

Who is our accuser? We are accused by the devil and also by our own conscience. The weight of your own sinfulness will only become heavier the longer you live.

2. Death may come when you least expect it.

We do not know how long we may live. God sets before us life and death. We have the opportunity to choose life. At death, there is no turning back, no reversal. Now is the favorable time (2 Corinthians 6:2).

3. The judge will not hear your defense.

In the judgement, as described in Revelation 20, we will have no voice. We will be alone with the judge, who will judge us objectively.

4. The sentencing will be quick and final.

The removal of the offender from before the judge is described as a casting out, being thrown out of God's presence. The judge will bang the gavel and there is no turning back, no second chance.

5. The prison is waiting for you.

Apart from Christ, you are a spiritual criminal. There is only one place where spiritual criminals go: the spiritual prison called hell.

God the Father is the judge and is morally obligated to judge us in righteousness. He is a fair, just judge.

What is missing from this parable? The lawyer. Jesus is the lawyer, as explained in 1 John 2:1— "We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do we have difficulty reconciling the idea that God is both Father and judge? How does scripture help us to think about these two aspects of God's nature?
2. Is our account settled with God? For Christians, how does this passage motivate us to be evangelistic in our relationships with non-believers?
3. In what sense is Jesus our lawyer? What role does he play as our advocate?