

Luke 12:49-56

“Look to God”

August 14, 2016

Twice in two years the same person came up to me and asked; “Why do those who have not heard the Gospel face the Judgment of hell?” I hear several things in that question. First, I hear that the answer I gave last year was not acceptable to them for some reason. Second, it may be that possibly they did not understand my answer. Third, maybe I was not able to communicate very well. Fourth, I hear their heart at work caring about the fate of other souls. Fifth, I hear their faith at work trying to understand the things of God. I did not have the time to discuss my answer. Nor do I think that she was ready to hear my answer.

In our text, Christ warns us that He brings divisions. He warns us that we will be divided in our families, among our neighbors and in our world. Many will not be able to accept the things of God and reject Him and reject us who carry the Gospel hope. This division is greater than a personality conflict. This division is greater than a difference of culture or language. This division goes to the very heart of our souls. We are either going to heaven or we are going to hell. We will either learn to accept the things of God or we will reject parts or even all of God ways and be in danger of losing our souls.

I answered this individual in the following way. Our God tells us that He knows everything. Our God tells us that He is present everywhere. Our God tells us that Jesus Christ, our Savior, humbled Himself and became a man. Then He humbled Himself and gave up His life on the Cross at Calvary to pay for our failure to meet God, the Creator's expectations. Finally, our God tells us that He calls us to be His. This final statement brings us to the problem. Why does God not call everyone to be His? Yes, there are many who never hear the Gospel hope that is found in Jesus Christ and therefore they are rejected and sentenced to hell forever.

The Gospel points to God and the Law points to us. The Gospel tells us what God has done, is doing and will do for us. The Law tells us what God wants from us and our failure to live up to His expectations. If God is the all-knowing and present everywhere God who gave Christ's life so that all could be saved, then the problem is not God's problem, He wants all to be saved and I believe that He would call all who would believe. If God wants all to be saved, then there are many who would not listen to His call. He is the all-knowing God, therefore God does not call because they will not listen. Therefore we have divisions among us even in our families because many will not walk the path of hope brought to us through the Cross at Calvary.

There are those in our world who ask; “Why can’t we coexist?” Some still believe that we have psychology and sociology and counseling, therefore we can fix ourselves. We don’t need God, we can fix ourselves. Only we have come to realize that we can’t fix ourselves and the world is not going to get better. Therefore some now turn and blame God and the religions rather than allow the world and the individuals in the world to be responsible for their sin. In Christ, God loves us and He wants peace among us but we reject His peace and hope to meet our needs.

There will always be those willing to sacrifice our lives to get there way and to control the world. We do it in the name of religion. We do it in the name of love. We do it in the name of hate. We do it in the name of revenge. We have many motivations but it all comes down to something we find it hard to accept. We are born into this world with a sinful nature and it leads to much hurt and pain. We are born into this world of violence and death and no matter how hard we seek to eliminate it, it will not go away.

Last week we talked about Cain. Cain had some twisted thinking. He thought that by killing Abel, he would gain God’s favor because he would be the only one left. Then God would have to accept his sacrifice. Cain needed to step back and realize that going to God requires a heart committed to Him. Christ did not come to solve all of life’s problems. Christ came because we could not solve

life's problems. Instead His blood shed on the Cross at Calvary paid for our failures and opened the way to heaven for us. Many cannot accept that because they are wrapped up in the ways of the world. Like Cain, they want God to conform to their way of thinking instead of allowing God to be God. If God chooses to reject those who don't believe in Him, then see His love on the Cross at Calvary and accept that God rejects them. Embrace God's love and mature in the faith rather than challenging God to conform to be what we think He should be doing. Amen.