

DON'T QUENCH THE FIRE!
Luke 12:49-56

I. FAMILY FATAL RELIGION

- A. *"I came to bring fire upon the earth ... Do you think that I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division ..."* (12:49 & 51)
- B. Would You Repeat That?
 - 1. What about the prophet saying, *"For unto us a child is born ... and his name shall be called ... Prince of Peace"* (Isaiah 9:6).
 - 2. What about the angel saying, *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men ..."* (Luke 2:14)
- C. Detrivializing Christianity.
 - 1. St. Frances of Assisi.
 - 2. Baptism in today's church is something "sweet" to do. In the early church you might be burned at the stake for being a Christian.
 - 3. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in today's church is an inconvenience. In the early church the symbolism was all too real.
- D. The Controlling Factor.
 - 1. "The gospel is not a flashlight but a fire. It can cut and it can burn. The gospel is not a table knife but a sword. It can set free and it can divide. The gospel is not pabulum. It is powerful stuff ..."
(Barbara Brown Taylor)
 - 2. When you ask Jesus into your life, what do you think will happen?

II. STORM WARNINGS

- A. *"When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, 'A shower is coming' ... You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky; but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"* (12:54 & 56)
- B. Can You Read the Signs?
 - 1. Unexpected storms:
 - * An automobile runs a red light and slams into us.
 - * The explosiveness of a ruptured aneurysm.
 - * You spouse is deployed to Iraq.
 - 2. Some storms are self-produced:
 - * A growing dependence on alcohol or drugs.
 - * A dissolving, disintegrating marriage.
 - * A mounting wall of debt.
- C. Turning Point: What's the Foundation?
 - 1. "No one sits down and plans on having a mediocre existence. No couple pledges their troth aiming at getting a divorce someday ... People don't give birth to children intending to be so busy that their kids won't know them. No one sits down and plans on his life going to hell." (John Ortberg)
 - 2. Jesus is our refuge in the time of storm.

Prayer Concerns: Members – Burney Biesel, Alton Creasy, J.W. Davis, Marie Davis, Donna Edwards, Leona Evans, Gay Irvin, Irene Kiefer, Fay McDowell, Carolyn Perkins, Carol Webb ... **Friends** – Melinda Banks, Bobby Borden, Pat Bryan, Alma Jo Churchill, Deborah Criswell, Doyle Davis, John Fumbanks, **Brandon Funderburk**, Gary Hinson, **Judy Malaquias**, Violet Stout, Mike Thompson, **Mrs. W.I. Thornton**, Durward Webb ...

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of **Dorys Dawson** who died on Friday, September 21, and to **Andy Jayroe and family** in the death of his grandfather, **Bob Holder**, on Friday, September 21.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Almighty God, you never cease to amaze us and you never stop surprising us. We bow before you praying for peace and you promise us division. We come to church to tie things down, slow down, settle down, and cool down and you want to move us, shake us, lift us, and fire us up. You challenge us when we look for comfort and comfort us when we expect to be challenged. You warn us when we expect to be praised and praise us when we expect to be warned. Sometimes we wish you were not quite so full of surprises. If only your ways were not so different from our ways and your thoughts so much higher than our thoughts. We never know exactly what to expect when we come into your presence.

O God of endless surprises, we come into your presence and put ourselves in your hands, as clay in the hands of a potter. We trust you with our worship, and we trust you with our lives. Mold us and make us after your will, while we are waiting, yielded and still. Take all that is wrong with us and make it right. Take all that is good in us and make it better. This is our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

LUKE 12:49-56

“I came to cast fire upon the earth; and would that it were already kindled! I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how I am constrained until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division; for henceforth in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against her mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.”

He also said to the multitudes, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, ‘A shower is coming’; and so it happens. When you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat’; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky; but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

SERMON SCHEDULE

In the Sanctuary:

October 7	<i>Everyone Is Invited</i> Worldwide Communion	Luke 14:1, 7-14
October 14	<i>Counting the Cost</i>	Luke 14:25-33
October 21	<i>How to Get Rich</i> Stewardship Season Begins	Mark 10:17-31
October 28	<i>When Less Is More</i> Youth Sunday	Mark 11:38-44

On the Radio (1450 AM):

October 7	<i>Just Say No!</i>	Genesis 39
October 14	<i>Learning How to Wait</i>	Genesis 40