

Series: Surprising Words from Jesus about Being a Disciple; *Sermon:* **The Urgency of the Kingdom**

Delivered by: **Rev. Steven Lee**, pastor of small groups and community outreach; *Date:* **August 14, 2016**

Bible text explored: **Luke 12:57–59**

⁵⁷“And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right? ⁵⁸As you go with your accuser before the magistrate, make an effort to settle with him on the way, lest he drag you to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer put you in prison. ⁵⁹I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the very last penny.” [ESV]

Review and application:

1. In the previous paragraph (*Luke 12:54-56, preached on last Sunday*), Jesus lamented the crowd’s failure to grasp what was at stake in his supernatural presence among them. What impact was his teaching and miracles having on the entire populace? (See Luke 9:9.) What indications are there of inadequate responses to overwhelming evidence that God incarnate was in their midst? (See, for instance, Luke 11:14-16.)
2. How do we often fail to respond to clear declarations of eternal truth . . .
. . . In the Scripture passages we read?
. . . In the hymn lyrics we sing?
3. Sometimes hard words are required, Pastor Lee noted, to drive home the necessity of promptly making a critical decision. What (v. 57, *above*) caused Jesus to resort to these hard words?
4. Of what, in Jesus’ illustration (vv. 58-59) is the listener guilty?
If no urgent action is taken, what will be the severity and duration of the debtors-prison punishment?
How can the listener avoid this fate?
5. If I fail to acknowledge my need for reconciliation with a holy God, what does Jesus say his response, as the ultimate judge, will be? (See Matt. 7:21-23.)
If by faith I ask Jesus to pay the penalty for my sin, what am I assured will be his response? (See Col. 2:13-14.)
6. If I’m already reconciled to God, what obligation does my paid-in-full status carry with it? (See Luke 12:8-9 and Acts 10:42.)
7. What will taking seriously my assignment as an ambassador for Christ involve? (See 2 Cor. 5:11, 14-15 and 19-20.)
How will it affect my prayer life? (See Luke 10:2.)