

**Sermon: Interpreting the Time.**  
**Series: Luke: The Gospel for Everyone.**

**Scripture: Luke 12:49-13:9.**  
**Date: March 23, 2025**

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**OBSERVATION** -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

**INTERPRETATION** -- Answer these questions together:

**1. What does this passage teach us about us?**

- a) In verses 54-56, Jesus tells us to “interpret the present time.” Do you feel like you are able to interpret the time we live in? In what way is this present time a time of judgment and division by Jesus?
- b) Read 13:1-5. The crowd uses the tragic events of the day to compare themselves to others (“worse sinners”). In what ways might you fall into this same trap of justifying yourself by comparing yourself to others. How does this attitude get in the way of true repentance?

**2. What does this passage teach us about God?**

- a) Often people will create a distinction between God the Father and God the Son. In what ways do we see Jesus the Son acting in tandem with the Father in this passage?

**3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?**

- a) In 12:57-59, Jesus warns of a judgment where we will have to pay our debts (“you will never get out until you have paid the last penny”). Read these scriptures about our sin debt being paid in full by Christ: Colossians 2:13-15; Ephesians 1:7; 1 John 2:2; Isaiah 53:6. How can trusting that your sin debt is fully paid by Jesus allow you to live a full and fruitful life?

**APPLICATION**

- a) This passage, especially 13:1-5, is a call to repentance in this present time. What role does repentance play in the Christian life? In your own daily life?
- b) Jesus doesn’t finish the parable of the fig tree, but we know that the fruitless fig tree of Israel will be replaced by the fruitful tree of Christ. We live in a time of “grace unto fruitfulness.” Using John 15:1-11, can you explain how God’s grace produces your fruitfulness (note that the metaphor has changed from fig tree to vine). Where have you seen this dynamic (grace producing fruitfulness) at work in your life?

**PRAYER**

- Praise God for his grace in allowing his Son to intercede for us.
- Confess ways you have used comparisons rather than repentance to deal with your sin.
- Thank Jesus for paying your sin debt.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to bear fruit from your connection to Christ.