

How to Deal with Adversaries Luke 12:57-59

ETS: Jesus challenged the people to settle accounts before taking to court

ESS: We should make every attempt to settle accounts with our adversaries

OSS: I want people to work to settle accounts

PQ: Do you work to settle accounts with adversaries?

UW: Settlements

ME

Who has seen **Star Wars**?

- Who saw it when it first came out in 1977?

Who was the VILLAN in Star Wars?

- **Darth Vader!**

Who was the “Good Guy”?

- Luke **Skywalker** (and Princess Leia)

Action movies are full of Good vs Bad

- The BAD refuses to change and the GOOD must overcome the Darkness

What about movies where two siblings or friends become enemies?

- You might remember the rivalry between **Woody and Buzz lightyear** in **Toy Story**, but in the end, they **reconcile** to become **good friends**.
 - It's a moving story and did really well at the box office

When **Billy Neal Moore** was in **jail**, awaiting the trial in which he would be **sentenced to death**, a minister shared with him the **good news** that Jesus loved him and wanted to forgive his sins. Moore learned that **no one is beyond redemption**. From prison, he wrote to his victim's family and asked their forgiveness.

Astoundingly, they immediately wrote back to say that they also were **Christians** and that they **forgave him**. Then the family decided to petition the Georgia parole board to commute Moore's death sentence. **In 1991**, Moore was paroled from prison, transformed by the grace of God and his victim's family members. **"When I was released, they embraced me like a brother,"** Moore said of Stapleton's family. He has been preaching the gospel of forgiveness to schoolchildren and church groups ever since.

WE

This is **Memorial Day Weekend**

- Memorial Day is Monday.
 - Memorial Day is a day honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military.
 - Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the **Civil War** and became an official federal holiday in 1971.

600,000 Americans died in the Civil War as the North fought against the South over Slavery.

- The war could have divided America into two countries, but President Lincoln was determined not to let that happen.
 - America emerged from that war as one country
 - Yes, we still had much work to do to address the injustice of slavery, but we determined that we'd work together.

Later, we fought WW1 against **Germany** and WW2 again against **Germany** as well as **Japan**, and the Empire of **Italy**.

- Millions of people died in those wars on both sides and this weekend we remember the **Americans who DIED** in those wars
 - All of us have **family members** who have died in those wars
 - Yet, our **countries reconciled** and there is cooperation with us today!

Nothing is more moving than when **family members reconcile!**

- To see a **son reconcile** with his **father** or a **daughter** with her **mother** is moving!

When people are not willing to reconcile in a family, it is not good!

- **Family reunions**, if they are held, are filled with **tension**
- People feel like they have to **choose sides**

Being at “**odds**” with someone is not good for your **mental, physical, or spiritual** health!

Why don't **people reconcile?**

What is the problem with people when they **refuse** to Reconcile?

How do you reconcile?

GOD

Turn to Luke 12

The **Holy Spirit** is the **author** of the Scriptures

- Explains WHY there is ONE common thread:

Humanity needs a Savior

○ Even though:

- **40 authors** = 1 message: Humanity needs a Savior
- **1,500 years** = 1 message: Humanity needs a Savior
- **3 continents** = 1 message: Humanity needs a Savior
- **3 languages** = 1 message: Humanity needs a Savior

Luke tells us in **Luke 1:1** that his book is a **compilation** of many stories about Jesus

- Luke pulls the stories together, but the Holy Spirit is guiding him as he lays them out.

Luke 12 seems to be a bunch of **random sayings** by Jesus, but they are not.

- They are what Jesus said to perhaps the **largest crowd** that gathered to hear Him

- But they still appear random, but they are not.

Jesus has been WARNING His disciples against:

- **Hypocrisy** (12:1-3)
- **Fear** (12:4-12)
- **Greed** (12:13-21)
- **Worry** (12:22-34)
- **Unpreparedness** (12:35-48)

Jesus' **tone** seems to become **harsh** as He seems to **focus** more on the crowd

- Jesus states that He came to bring **DIVISION** (12:49-53)
 - Jesus is the **DIVIDING LINE**
 - While we should seek to “**live at peace with all people,**” we cannot compromise on WHO Jesus is!
 - Jesus is the **ONLY Son** of God
 - Jesus is the **ONLY way** to God
 - Jesus is the **TRUTH**

Jesus **chastises the CROWD** (12:54-56)

- Chastised them for not seeing the “**SIGNS**” **demonstrating** Jesus as their long-awaited Messiah.
 - WHY didn't they see the signs?
 - They **weren't LOOKING** for them

- They **didn't WANT** to see them
- They have **EXPLANATIONS** to **DISMISS** them

WE live in an **unprecedented era** of human history!

- The world has **technology** like no other civilization
- The world has **financially wealthy** people like no other civilization
- The world has **travel abilities** like no other civilization
- The world has **communication** abilities like no other civilization
- The **Western world** has long been **dominated** by Christianity
 - The Christian worldview **fostered** these **achievements**
- *The Western world has turned its back on God*
 - The Western world is quickly degenerating
 - The Western world is becoming a victim of its own pride, wealth, and achievements
- There is another world religion waiting in the wings
 - One that rejects Jesus as the Messiah
 - One that has ruled by submission
 - One that is not favorable to followers of Jesus

The SIGNS are all around us!

You would think Jesus would want to **appease** the crowd, but He continues to **chastise** the crowd:

Luke 12:57-59 “Why don’t you judge for yourselves what is right? 58 As you are going with your adversary to the ruler, make an effort to settle with him on the way. Then he won’t drag you before the judge, the judge hand you over to the bailiff, and the bailiff throw you into prison. 59 I tell you, you will never get out of there until you have paid the last penny.”

Do you remember what happened in v. 13?

- **Luke 12:13** “Someone from the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”
 - This was the **FIRST interaction** of the crowd with Jesus
 - Up until this time, Jesus was **focused** on speaking to His **disciples**

Jesus’ response:

- **Luke 12:14-15** “Friend,” he said to him, “who appointed me a judge or arbitrator over you?” 15 He then told them, “Watch out and be on guard against all greed, because one’s life is not in the abundance of his possessions.”

- Jesus goes on to tell a parable about **GREED**
 - Then Jesus goes back to **talking** to His **disciples** in **v. 22**.

BUT NOW, Jesus is talking to the **CROWD** and **CHASTIZING them** and he asks this question:

- **Luke 12:57** “Why don’t you judge for yourselves what is right?”
 - I think Jesus is “**Circling back**” to the man’s **DEMAND** in **v. 13!**

The **man**: “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” (12:13)

Jesus: “Why don’t you judge for yourselves what is right?” (12:57)

WHAT is the **right thing** to do?

- Is the “RIGHT THING” to have Jesus go to this man’s brother and demand that he divide the inheritance?
 - *NO! That is not Jesus’ mission*
 - *Jesus’ mission was NOT to get involved in CIVIL issues!*

WHAT is the right thing to do?

- Jesus says that the “RIGHT THING” to do is in **Luke 12:58** “As you are going with your adversary to the

ruler, make an effort to settle with him on the way. Then he won't drag you before the judge, the judge hand you over to the bailiff, and the bailiff throw you into prison."

- The **man's brother** is his **adversary** and he needs to go to his brother and "make an effort to settle with him."

WHY should the man **take** the **initiative** and try to work things out with his brother?

- So the issue won't go to the **judge** and the **situation** will be **worse!**

Go to Your Adversary and Try to Reconcile

What is "RECONCILE"?

To RECONCILE is to RESTORE a friendly RELATIONSHIP with Someone

To RECONCILE is to be at PEACE with your ENEMY

- That seems like a **PRACTICAL solution!**
 - If you have a problem with someone, go to them and try to Reconcile

WHY don't people RECONCILE?

PRIDE

Jesus knows **everything!**

- Perhaps Jesus **knew** that the **man** who DEMANDED Jesus go to his brother was **NOT** a **man** of **HUMILITY**.
 - It is difficult that this man in the crowd would DEMAND Jesus go to His brother if He was a **HUMBLE** man!
 - He didn't go to Jesus in **PRIVATE**-He **Yelled** His **Demand** in front of EVERYONE!
 - He didn't wait to talk to Jesus: He DEMANDED Jesus DO SOMETHING for Him!

Luke 12:57: “Why don't you judge for yourselves what is right? (12:57)

- **WHY** does Jesus ask this **question?**
 - We know we should try to RECONCILE!

Do you know someone who **REFUSES** to **RECONCILE?**

Do you know someone who seems to have an **ISSUE** with just about **EVERYONE?**

- (Maybe, you're that person?)
 - You are **not speaking** to your **parents**
 - There is **TENSION** between you and your **co-workers**
 - You have a **TENSE** relationship with your **spouse**

- You are always **FRUSTRATED** with **people** around **you!**
 - Has it ever occurred to you that YOU'RE THE PROBLEM?

Do you know someone who is always **ANGRY** at the world?

WHY does Jesus ask this **question**?

- We know we should try to RECONCILE!

WHY don't we RECONCILE?

PRIDE

We think it is BENEATH us to **APOLOGIZE**

We think it is BENEATH us to **ADMIT** we may be the one with the **PROBLEM**

We think it is BENEATH us to **ACKNOWLEDGE** that we made the **MISTAKE**

WHAT happens to a person who REFUSES to RECONCILE?

- No Peace in their soul
 - Always **FRUSTRATED**
 - Always **ANGRY**
 - Always has a **SHORT-FUSE**
 - Always **COMPLAINING** about people

- Always **DEMANDING**
- No **PEACE** in their soul
- No **JOY**
- No **HAPPINESS**
- No **REST** – always in a “Fight mode”

The man’s **DEMAND** in **v. 13 ILLUSTRATES** something far more serious than a **TEMPORARY INHERITANCE**

- If this DEMANDING MAN **did not heed** Jesus’ advice, then the **case** probably went to a **judge**, but Jesus describes something **WORSE** than this DEMANDING MAN losing in court because of His **PRIDE**, *which fueled his GREED*

Luke 12:57-59 “Why don’t you judge for yourselves what is right? 58 As you are going with your adversary to the ruler, make an effort to settle with him on the way. Then he won’t drag you before the judge, the judge hand you over to the bailiff, and the bailiff throw you into prison. 59 I tell you, you will never get out of there until you have paid the last penny.”

- I doubt that the DEMANDING MAN would have been **thrown into prison** over his dispute with his brother.

PROBLEM:

- **PRIDE** on a **small scale** – refusing to reconcile with our fellow humans – creates a **BIGGER PROBLEM** between US and GOD!

Because of **PRIDE**, the person **WOULD NOT RECONCILE** with his **adversary**

- This led to the **prideful person** going before the **judge**
- This led to the **judge** turning the **prideful person** to the **bailiff**
- This led to the **bailiff** throwing the **prideful person** into **jail**

Jesus is returning to this MAN'S demand in v. 13 to teach a **DEEPER** problem with **PRIDE**!

Let's do some **grammar**:

Do you know what an **INDEFINITE article** is? Here is an example:

- **English** indefinite article "A" (A house, A car, A judge)
- **Haitian Creole** indefinite article "Yon" (Yon fi, (a woman), Yon gason (a man), yon chemiz (a shirt))

Do you know what a **DEFINITE** article is? Here is an example:

- English indefinite article “the” (***the*** house, the car, the judge)
 - In English we put the DEFINITE article before the NOUN
- Haitian Creole definite articles “La, a, an, nan, and yo” and they come AFTER the noun
 - English: a woman
 - Creole: fi (woman) “a” (the): *fi a* = the woman
 - Creole: gason (man) “an” (the): gason **an** = the man
 - Creole: **chemiz** (shirt) “La” (the): chemiz **la** = the shirt

The NEW TESTAMENT was written in **koine Greek** – which was the Greek language for the common people

- In **koine Greek** there is **NOT** an **INDEFINITE ARTICLE**
 - There is **not** an “A” - it is implied
- In **koine Greek** there is the **DEFINITE** article “**THE**”

WHO CARES?

- **Luke 12:58** “As you are going with your adversary to the ruler, make an effort to settle with him on the way. Then he won’t drag you before **THE** judge, **THE** judge

hand you over to **THE** bailiff, and **THE** bailiff THROW you into prison.”

WHO is “THE Judge”?

- The Judge is **Jesus** in the **future**
 - **The First Time:** Jesus came to die for the sins of humanity to provide THE WAY to God!
 - **The Second Time:** Jesus will be the **JUDGE**

HOW does a person get to enjoy eternity with GOD?

HUMILITY

- You have to **HUMBLE YOURSELF**
 - **ADMIT** that you **SIN (REBEL)** against God

PROBLEM:

- Most people do not want to **admit** they **SIN** or are **LIVING** in **SIN** —especially now since the **culture** is now making sin **excusable**, even “**in fashion.**”
- Most people do not want to **admit** they **SIN** or are **LIVING** in **SIN** —especially now since many **churches/denominations** are making sin **excusable**, even “**in fashion.**”

To **ADMIT SIN** is requiring that you now swim against **CULTURE** and even many **RELIGIOUS-TYPE** organizations!

HOW does a person get to enjoy eternity with GOD?

HUMILITY

- You have to **HUMBLE YOURSELF**
 - **ADMIT** that you **SIN (REBEL)** against God —this requires HUMILITY

HOW does a person get to enjoy eternity with GOD?

HUMILITY

- **RECONCILE to GOD**
 - How do you RECONCILE? **HUMILITY**
 - **Admit** You Need God to save You
 - **Believe** God will Save You from Your Sin
 - **Confess** Jesus to be Your Savior and Lord of your life

Luke 12:58 “As you are going with your adversary to the ruler, make an effort to settle with him on the way. Then he won’t drag you before **THE** judge, **THE** judge hand you over to **THE** bailiff, and **THE** bailiff **THROW** you into prison.”

WHO is “THE Baliff”?

- I don’t know, but it *doesn’t matter* because what the Bailiff does is **carry out the order** of the judge.

What is the ORDER of the Judge?

- **“THE bailiff THROW you into prison”**

Earlier when the **crowd** was **forming** in **Luke 12:1**, Jesus was talking to His disciples

- Jesus was addressing their **growing FEAR** of **PERSECUTION**

In **Luke 12:5** Jesus refers to HELL, in fact, this is the **ONLY time Jesus** refers to **HELL** in Luke.

- Notice how Jesus describes the scene **“Fear him who has authority to throw people into hell after death”**
 - **WHO:** **“Him who has authority”**
 - **WHAT:** **“Throws people into Hell”**
 - **When:** **“after death”**

Hell is a place where **God’s wrath** is poured out on those who REFUSE to REPENT and BELIEVE!

- WHY do they REFUSE? **PRIDE!**

In all the **pictures of hell**, people are being **“THROWN”** into Hell!

- **Revelation 19:20** states that the “beast” (Anti-Christ) and the false prophet are **“Thrown alive into the lake of fire”**
- **Revelation 20:10** Satan is **“thrown into the lake of fire”**

- **Revelation 20:15** “And anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.”

In all the **pictures of hell**, people are being “**THROWN**” into Hell!

- WHY? Because NO ONE is going to WANT to go to HELL!
 - PROUD People proclaim: “I’ll see my friend in Hell” or “We will party in Hell”
 - NO ONE when they see HELL will want to go there – which is why they will be “**THROWN**” into Hell!

What is the ORDER of the Judge?

- “**THE** bailiff **THROW** you into prison”
 - Who is the “**YOU**”?
 - The person who REFUSES to try to be RECONCILED

YOU

PQ: Are You Reconciled to God?

God is your **adversary** unless you are RECONCILE to God!

WHY is God your adversary?

- Because you are living in **rebellion** against Him

Does God WANT to be your adversary?

- **No.** That's why Jesus came!
 - Jesus came to be the bridge between you and God!
 - Jesus came to give you the way to God
 - It costs Jesus' His life
 - It required Jesus taking on your sin

God has taken the step TOWARD you to be RECONCILED

- NOW, you must take the STEP Toward God!

HOW?

- **Admit** You Need God to save You
- **Believe** God will Save You from Your Sin
- **Confess** Jesus to be Your Savior and Lord of your life

PQ: Are You Reconciled to God?