

Sunday, August 14, 2022

10 Pentecost, Year C

The Gospel: Luke 12:49-56

Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love. Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus said: ⁴⁹"I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵²From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

OPEN

- What divisive subjects are no longer fit for discussion at your family table or family reunions?

DIG

- Of what "fire" is Jesus speaking? "What "baptism" " What division?" How and why does Jesus bring division? How does this relate to 12:31-34? How do you reconcile this with the fact that Jesus brings peace?
- From verses 49-53, how has the crowd "misread" Jesus? In what way are they hypocrites? What does the warning (vv. 57-59) mean?

REFLECT

- What has Christ brought to your family and friends: division or peace? Why?
- How can you tell if it is your faith that strains a relationship, or the way you express that faith?
- What signs in your own life indicate how you're doing? Using a weather map to describe your spiritual life, what does it forecast?