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Hypocrites! You Know How to Interpret the Weather,
But Not the Present Time
Luke 12: 54-59

Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the weather, but not the present time DIG: In what way are they hypocrites? What does the term present time mean? If their culture believed that it was the responsibility of the Great Sanhedrin to identify the Messiah, why would they still be held responsible for rejecting Jesus? What current practice at that time was used as an illustration to make peace with God before it was too late? What would it cost them if they refused to repent?

REFLECT: How can you tell if it is your faith that strains a relationship, or if it is the way you express your 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? What will it cost if you, a friend, or a loved one, doesn't repent?

After **Jesus** spoke directly to **His** talmidim, **He** turned **His** attention **to the crowd**. **Christ** now gave those who were rejecting **Him** a tender, yet stern, warning of the danger that confronted them. The fire that **Christ** had come to bring on the earth **(Luke 12:49)** would involve judgment. Those who rejected **Him** would be brought under severe divine discipline. In view of impending judgment, **Yeshua** again urged the nation to seek reconciliation with **the Judge** in order to escape **His** judgment. The things **He** had spoken to **His** apostles had a wider application in Isra'el's relationship to her **Messiah**.



Yeshua said to the crowd: When you see a cloud rising in the west (moisture-laden air coming from the Mediterranean Sea)**, immediately you say, "It's going to rain," and it does. And when the south wind blows** (a sirocco blowing from the desert from the south-southwest)**, you say, "It's going to be hot," and it is (Luke 12:54-55). The people** had learned to determine whether a day would be clear or rainy, or hot or cool, by studying **the clouds** and **the wind**. **They** were able to interpret the signs in the heavens to determine the course of the weather.

Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret this present time (Luke 12:56)? The Greek word for **time** here is *kairon*, and in the New Covenant it frequently refers to a specific **time** appointed by **ADONAI**. The Kingdom of **God** had come and **the Meshiach** was offering salvation through faith. Although **Jesus** refused to perform signs and wonders for the crowds after **His** rejection by the Sanhedrin, **His** actions were nevertheless signs for those with open hearts. This was the same accusation that **the Master** had made against the religious leaders earlier (**to see link click Fv – The Pharisees and Sadducees ask for a Sign**).

The Lord held the nation responsible for that revelation. Even though **their** culture at that time believed that the decision to identify **the** true **Messiah** (there had been many false messiah's over the years) was the responsibility of the Great Sanhedrin (see **Lg – The Great Sanhedrin**), neither the nation, nor individuals could escape the consequence of **their** actions. **Ezeki'el** had said: **The one who sins is the one who will die (Ezeki'el 18:1-32)**. **Their** stubborn refusal to believe would not, could not, be overlooked.

Therefore, **Yeshua** urged **His** listeners to read these signs and act while there was still time to do so. **He** used the illustration of a court of law to drive home the point

that they need to avoid being sentenced by a righteous **Judge**. An obviously guilty party in a legal dispute will settle out of court if he or she is wise. Likewise, a guilty man or woman approaching the inevitable judgment of **ADONAI** should settle account with **the Creator**. **Why don't you judge for yourselves what is right (Luke 12:57)?**

Luke was a Hellenistic Jew, but **his** intended audience was largely Gentiles. Therefore, **he** may have changed the illustration here from a Jewish setting, which could have been settled by a **Torah-teacher (Luke 12:13-14)**, to a Hellenistic one, which would have been settled by **a judge**, in order to better reflect the kind of situation **his** readers might face.

As you are going with your adversary to the magistrate, try hard to be reconciled on the way, or your adversary may drag you off to the judge, and the judge turn you over to the officer (Greek *praktor*, a technical term for the office of the Roman judicial system who was in charge of the debtor's **prison**)**, and the officer throw you into** debtor's **prison (Luke 12:58).** When any **adversary** was led away to **the magistrate**, **he** would make every effort to come to an agreement with **him** before **he** was dragged before **the judge** for punishment.[1048] For without a proper sacrifice to offer for **their** sins, **their** debt would be far too great, and **their** putrid works far too insufficient.

God's Kingdom has come! Make peace now with **God**, **the Judge**, while there is still time! In this way **Christ** urged them to be reconciled to **Himself** since **He** had been appointed by **ADONAI** as **Judge (John 5:27)**. Judgment would fall on that generation unless they were reconciled to **Him**. When judgment came, it would be too late to seek reconciliation (see **Mt – The Destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 AD**). Therefore, **Jesus** warned the nation: **I** will **tell you** something**, you won't** ever **get out until you have paid the last penny**, or *leptos*, the smallest Jewish copper coin used in Palestine **(Luke 12:59).** For **the last penny** in that judgment, as the next file will **show (Luke 13:1-9)**, would be nothing less than **their** lives. **They** must repent!

*Heavenly **Father**, in **Your** mercy **You** have redeemed us and opened heaven for us. By **Your Spirit**, help us recognize the signs of **Your** love and power. Show us how to respond to **Your** gracious invitation to life.*