

## The Red-Letter Words of Yeshua ~ Part 50

### The Ministry Continues ~ Part 14

We continue our study of **The Ministry Continues**, beginning in **Luke** 12:49.

#### Not Peace, but Division

***49 "I have come to set fire to the earth! And how I wish it were already kindled!"***

**Fire.** Primarily the refining fire of holiness and the ultimate fire of judgment against sin (compare Isaiah 66:24; Malachi 3:2–3; 1 Cor. 3:13–15; Rev. 19:20, 20:14–15). Secondly a fire of hostility between unbelievers and believers (see below in verse 53).

***50 I have an immersion to undergo—how pressured I feel till it's over!***

This **immersion** involves **Yeshua's** total identification with sinful humanity. He bears our sins and their punishment, in keeping with Isaiah 53:6, "***Adonai has laid on him the iniquities of us all.***" He thus becomes a sacrifice for our sins, giving up His very life and immersing Himself into death, paying the death penalty we owe for our sins "***like a lamb brought for slaughter***" (Isaiah 53:7).

***51 Do you think that I have come to bring peace in the Land? Not peace, I tell you, but division!***

**Yeshua** is not to rule in glory at His first coming; He is not at that time to fulfill the **Messianic** prophecies of world peace, e.g., "***They shall beat their swords into plowshares ...***" (Isaiah 2:4, Micah 4:3). For this reason, He will **bring ... division**: some will acknowledge Him as **Messiah**, while others will not so that families will be split down the middle over this issue (vv. 52–53).

***52 For from now on, a household of five will be divided, three against two, two against three.***

***53 Father will be divided 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 her mother-in-law."*** <sup>1</sup> ~ Luke 12:49-53

#### Interpreting the Time

***54 Then to the crowds, Yeshua said, "When you see a cloud-bank rising in the west, at once you say that a rainstorm is coming; 55 and when the wind is from the south, you say there will be a heatwave, and there is. 56 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 12:54-56

Once again, **Yeshua** speaks differently **to the crowds** than to His **talmidim** (vv. 22–53). To His own **talmidim**, He entrusted information about His ministry and about how to obey Him in a manner reflecting their already existing commitment to Him. His only task with the crowds was to awaken them to their need to commit their lives to Him, to become **talmidim**. As with the preceding sections, this one is oriented toward the final judgment.

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<sup>1</sup> Micah 7:6

## Settle with Your Accuser

***<sup>57</sup> Why don't you decide for yourselves what is the right course to follow? <sup>58</sup> If someone brings a lawsuit against you, take pains to settle with him first; otherwise, he will take the matter to court, and the judge will turn you over to the bailiff, and the bailiff will throw you in jail. <sup>59</sup> I tell you, you won't get out of there till you have paid the last penny!*** ~ Luke 12:57-59

This section parallels Mattityahu 5:25–26, part of **Yeshua's** teaching about anger in the **Sermon on the Mount**. Here, Luke incorporates the same material into **Yeshua's** teaching about the final judgment.

In our next post, we will pick back up in **Luke 13:1**. Hopefully, we will complete the section on **The Ministry Continues** to concentrate on **Teaching Through Parables**.