

Faith for Community Justice IV

Consider *Luke 12:49-56*

Luke 12:49 I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled? ⁵⁰ But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I ^astrained till it be accomplished! ⁵¹ Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division: ⁵² For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. ⁵³ The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. ⁵⁴ **And he said also to the people,** When ye see a cloud rise out of the west, straightway ye say, There cometh a shower; and so it is. ⁵⁵ And when ye see the south wind blow, ye say, There will be heat; and it cometh to pass. ⁵⁶ Ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that ye do not discern this time?

There is a divisive element in the kingdom of God.

Idolatry is when we create God in our image after our likeness.

Is the kingdom to be an agreeable, likeable and pleasant community?

Is the kingdom of God to be a culture of niceness?

Is there another side of the kingdom?

Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but **righteousness, and peace,** and joy in the Holy Ghost.

I

The gospels show a conflict between the reign of God and the reign of Caesar.

Luke 12:49-53

Pax Romana is a strategy of the empire, order through the threat of violence.

Peace in Rome is an absence of conflict.

- Peace was achieved and enforced by the empire and religious order.

The empire and religious order both benefit from the arrangement.

II

The kingdom of God is based on shalom. ***Luke 12:54-56***

Shalom is wholeness, completeness, soundness, health, safety, prosperity.

Shalom is for all in the community.

Peace means different temperaments and opinions work together for the common good.

Peace is one of the Names of God who gives unity to the whole of creation.

- *Jehovah Shalom*

III

Consider **Nehemiah 5 (a case study)**

The anguish of the people *Vs 1-5*

The anger of the leader *Vs 6-7a*

The great assembly of the community *Vs 7b-11*

The answer of the officials *Vs 12*

The accountability and follow through of the officials *Vs 13*

- They needed a Nehemiah Action then.
- *We need a Nehemiah Action now.*

Nehemiah Action - May 6, 2019 - 6:15 pm
Celeste Center Ohio State Fairgrounds

Rhema Christian Center, Bishop La Fayette Scales - Saturday & Sunday, May 4th & 5th, 2019