

Luke 12:54–59

The tragedy of wasted opportunity

Intro

- ▶ Many people know what it is to waste an opportunity
- ▶ Today Jesus speaks to a large crowd
 - Some believe in Him, but many do not believe in Him. They have not accepted His teachings, they don't believe even after seeing His miracles first hand.

1. “You haven’t discerned the time” (v54–56)

- ▶ V54–55. They can predict and interpret the weather...
- ▶ But they can’t interpret the times.
- ▶ Jesus calls them “hypocrites” (v56).
- ▶ These are people who would have known the Old Testament scriptures...but can’t see what God is doing in the world now...even with Jesus right before them!
- ▶ *How might this illustration be given to listeners in Britain today?*
- ▶ The problem was the sinful hearts of the listeners – they would not admit their sin, and come to Jesus.
- ▶ See John 8:37, 58, and John 10:30–31 for the reaction to Jesus’ teachings!

2. “You haven’t discerned the urgency” (v57–59)

- ▶ Being summoned to court is not pleasant for most people.
- ▶ But we **all** have a court appointment – standing in front of the Judge of all the earth (Hebrews 9:27)
- ▶ Jesus says – if you were being taken to court, you would **do everything possible** to sort the issue out before you got put in front of the judge. It would be **urgent!**

2. “You haven’t discerned the urgency” (v57–59)

- ▶ John 3:16 – *for God so loved the world....*
- ▶ John 3:19 *...light has come into the world, but men loved darkness rather than light...*
- ▶ John 12:35 *“..Walk while you have the light....While you have the light, believe in the light..”*

2. “You haven’t discerned the urgency” (v57–59)

- ▶ Luke 19:42: Jesus weeps over what will happen to Jerusalem...and then it will be too late for the people...
- ▶ Isaiah 55:6 “*Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near*”
- ▶ 2 Corinthians 6:2 “*Behold, now is the accepted time, behold, now is the day of salvation*”