

“Do You Remember”

(Luke 12:49-59)

Dr. Richard S. Koole
Chapel Pointe
October 16, 2011

I. Introduction

A. What’s your earliest memory?

1. Challenging our kids
2. Their earliest memory
3. Many are early traumas
 - a. My hand injury
4. What’s your earliest memory?
5. What is your fondest memory?

B. Remembering names

1. Scott Ginsberg, author of *The Power of Approachability*

“Do you have a hard time remembering people’s names? Does it embarrass you and make you avoid people? It’s a common problem....You forget someone’s name within ten seconds of their introduction.”

2. This Sunday morning we’ll remember together the very core of our faith”

C. Why do we celebrate Communion?

1. Proclamation

- a. I Corinthians 11:26

(26) For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

- b. Proclaim that Jesus paid for our sins with his life

- c. Proclaim that he's coming back for us

2. Examination

- a. I Corinthians 11:27-29

(27) Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. (28) A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. (29) For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.

- b. Keeping "short tabs"
- c. This is serious business

3. Confession

- a. Examine and then ask God to forgive you for those sins
- b. And he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness
- c. Walking out of here this morning...clean
- d. This is how it feels to be free!

4. Remembrance

- a. I Corinthians 11:23-25

(23) The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, (24) and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." (25) In the same way, after supper he took the cup saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

- b. Remember that he died for you personally
- c. Remember the agony he endured on the cross for you
- d. Remember that he rose from the dead
- e. Remember that he's preparing to come back for us
- f. Remember the importance of what we are about to do

D. Months prior to the crucifixion in Luke 12

1. No one else seemed to understand about his coming death
2. Jesus reflected on it as he preached in Luke 12 and 13
3. We receive a small taste of how painful it would be

II. Text...Luke 12:49-59

A. The Division (vs. 49-52)

(49) I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!

1. Jesus is the coming fire
 - a. He'll bring judgment
2. What will "kindle" the fire?
 - a. His death on the cross
 - b. Before Jesus judges...he must be judged
 - c. The agony of waiting for a painful event
3. Remember Jesus was able to feel pain
4. He refers to it as his "baptism" (v. 50)

(50) But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is completed!

- a. *Baptism* was a word the Greeks liked to use to speak about being immersed in something. Jesus used it as being immersed in pain, immersed in suffering, immersed in judgment, immersed in divine wrath
- b. Remember that Jesus was all man...as well as all God
 1. He felt the agony as much as you would
 2. And he knew in advance how much it would hurt
 3. Jesus would be literally consumed by the wrath of God
- c. Remember that our sins were the cause of God's wrath on Jesus

1. Jesus carried the sins of all mankind
2. The just was punished for the unjust
- d. He wished that it was already over...kindled
5. Remember his agony in the Garden of Gethsemane the night before
 - a. Matthew 26:36-39

(36) Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." (37) He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. (38) Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." (39) Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

6. His "baptism" was *"the dividing event"* in human history

(51) Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division.

- a. People will now have to take sides
- b. What will they do with Jesus?
- c. Jesus is the issue with other religions
 1. They may accept him as a prophet or teacher
 2. But, they reject him as the Son of God
 3. Colossians 2:8-9

(8) See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

(9) For in Christ all the fullness of the Godhead lives in bodily form.

- d. The division was immediate

(52) From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three.

1. Began with his arrival

2. The nation of Israel was divided

g. The division was both national and personal

(53) They will be divided, father against son and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.

h. It continues to divide families

1. Christie's wedding yesterday

a. Brings me great joy

2. But when there is a "mixed marriage"

i. It will grow in intensity during the end times

1. Jesus spoke of what was to come in Matthew 10:21

(21) Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. (22) All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

B. The Discernment (vs. 54-55)

1. They should have discerned that Jesus was the Messiah

2. After all...they knew how to discern the coming weather (Watching out for you...Storm Team 8)

a. The rising cloud (v. 54)

(54) He said to the crowd: "When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, 'It's going to rain,' and it does."

1. When we see clouds coming across Lake Michigan

b. The south wind (v. 55)

(55) And when the south wind blows, you say, "It's going to be hot," and it is.

1. My first "Santa Ana" in Southern California

a. The "devil winds"

b. Off of Death Valley

- c. The fires
- 2. The Jews called their winds the “siroccos”
 - a. Came in off their desert
 - b. They knew the south winds would bring scorching heat
- 3. Yet they didn’t recognize their own Messiah? (vs. 56-57)

(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? (57) Why don’t you judge for yourselves what is right?

- a. Our study of Daniel 9
 - 1. Even I could have figured it out
 - 2. The wise men from the east
- b. They understood the signs for the coming Messiah
- c. Jesus called them “Hypocrites”

“Their holiness was superficial. Their allegiance to God was a sham. Their religion was external and their hearts were wicked and evil.”

- d. They had plenty of evidence and yet they said, “Show us a sign”

C. The Disaster (vs. 58-59)

(58) As you are going with your adversary to the magistrate, try hard to be reconciled to him on the way, or he may drag you off to the judge, and the judge turn you over to the officer, and the officer throw you into prison.

- 1. How their legal system worked
 - a. The Magistrate
 - 1. Both parties would go to him for a preliminary hearing
 - 2. He would determine whether or not it should be taken to the judge
 - b. The Judge

1. Would hear the case and pass judgment
2. Would turn the guilty party over to “the officer”

c. The Officer

1. The enforcer
2. Threw you in prison and kept you there until your debt had been paid in full
3. Nobody wanted to be turned over to ”the officer”
 - a. His job was to put convicted offenders into prison
 - b. Too late to fix the problem

(59) I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.”

- c. Would never be able to do it
- d. Better fix it before that day
2. Therefore, settle before you get to the magistrate
 - a. Presumes guilt
3. How does it apply to you and me?

III. Things to Remember

- 1. Each of us must make a choice regarding Jesus***
- 2. We must make things right prior to facing the judge***
 - a. Too late once in front of the judge
 - b. Will never be able to pay back all that we owe
 - c. Remember, now is the time
 - d. Hebrews 9:26-28

(26) ...But now Christ has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. (27) Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face

judgment, (28) so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

3. We are honored to remember what Jesus did for us

- a. Communion
- b. Rick closes communion in prayer (Band to platform)
- c. Philippians 2:6-11 is a summary of what we believe
- d. Remembered and repeated by Christians for 2000 years
- e. Remember this....

(6) Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, (7) but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. (8) And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

(9) Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, (10) that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, (11) and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.