Introduction

Reality Check

There are a lot of things said about Jesus, Christianity and the gospel that just aren’t true. This passage offers a sobering reality check by Jesus himself.

It is Jesus’ final attempt to call the nation of Israel to repentance before it is too late.

It is also a warning to us and to our generation.

I. Reality Check #1 – Division. Verses 49-53

Following Jesus is costly.

“I have come to bring fire on the earth.”

- Fire for the believer is a purifying fire.
- For the unbeliever, it is the fire of judgment.

Jesus brings salvation and judgment.

Jesus opens the way for peace with God, but not all will accept it.

You will experience division – sometimes within your own family.

But Jesus will be with you to the end of the age. Matthew 28:20

II. Reality Check #2 – Verses 54-59

There is a final judgment. One day every person will stand before the Lord.

- “For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat...So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.” Romans 14:10-12
- For the believer it is the bema seat of Christ. II Corinthians 5:10
- For the unbeliever it is the Great White Throne. Revelation 20:15

How does Jesus approach this subject? He uses two examples.

- Weather – You know how to read the weather, but you are clueless about the coming of the Messiah.
- The Court System – You know how to avoid going before the judge, but you are clueless about the day you will stand before Almighty God.
Now is the time to settle accounts before it is too late.

“Man is destined to die once and after that to face judgment.” Hebrews 9:27


Jesus is asked a question about a current event – the slaughter of the Galileans by Pilate.

Popular thought at that time was that they must have committed some serious sin before God.

Jesus says, “No. But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

Then he brings up another event in the news – the collapse of the tower in Siloam.

“But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

What does Jesus mean?

We are all sinners and unless we repent of our sin, we will all meet a fearful end when we stand before God.

What is the remedy? It is repentance.

“Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near!” Matthew 4:17

What is repentance?

- It is a change of heart and mind.
- It is also a change of life.
- “Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.” Matthew 3:8

The last parable in 13:5-9 shows how vital it is that we bear fruit.

- The fig tree is Israel.
- The owner is God.
- The caretaker is Jesus.

God is patient, but his patience won’t last forever.

Unless we repent, we too will perish.

Conclusion:

The reward for repentance is freedom and forgiveness.

The way to eternal life is through Christ.

One day we will die and stand before God to give an account of our life.

Are you ready for that day?