



Things to Talk About and Reflect Upon

“Signs of the Time”

Key Verse:

“Hypocrites! You can discern the face of the sky and of the earth, but how is it you do not discern this time?”

—Luke 12:56

Discussion Questions:

1. Fire, baptism, and division

Pastor Miles admitted this passage “doesn’t sound like the Jesus I normally think of.” Read Luke 12:49–53. What do you think Jesus means by the “fire” He came to send and the “baptism” He had to be baptized with? In verse 53 He echoes Micah 7:6. How can the Prince of Peace also bring division — and where have you seen following Jesus create friction, even in a family?

Further Reading: Micah 7:6; Mark 10:38–39; Isaiah 9:6; John 14:27; Matthew 10:34–39

2. Discerning this time

On October 3, 2008, Miles and his wife raced to Los Angeles to sign loan papers — the day the market crashed and “time is of the essence” took on new meaning. The crowds could read clouds and wind but not “this time.” What were they missing — and who was standing right in front of them? In verse 57 Jesus presses further: “Why, even of yourselves, do you not judge what is right?” How does He move from reading the times to personal responsibility?

Further Reading: Matthew 16:1–3; Luke 19:41–44; Luke 12:57–59; Romans 13:11–12

3. Rolling through the stop sign

“You know how to discern the signs, but you don’t obey it.” Miles confessed that for years the Lord had been flashing a stop sign at him, and he kept giving it the California stop. Jesus’ word for knowing without doing is “hypocrites.” What is one sign the Lord

has been showing you — in your schedule, your health, a relationship, or your time with Him — that you’ve been rolling through? What would a full and complete stop look like this week?

Further Reading: James 1:22–25; Hebrews 3:7–15; Psalm 32:8–9; Proverbs 29:1

4. See a need and fill it

Miles was raised on the household of Stephanas, who “addicted themselves to the ministry,” and on Paul’s “I labored more abundantly than they all.” Now read the rest of 1 Corinthians 15:10 — “yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.” How does that phrase change the picture? Set it beside Jethro’s warning to Moses in Exodus 18:17–18 and the fourth commandment. Is there a “yes” in your life that God may want you to turn into a “no,” or to share with someone else?

Further Reading: 1 Corinthians 16:15–16; 1 Corinthians 15:9–10; Exodus 18:13–23; Exodus 20:8–11; Mark 6:30–32

5. Pray for us, help us

Miles closed with two requests: pray for us, and help us. Even Paul asked the churches again and again to pray for him. Read Ephesians 4:11–16 — according to verse 12, who does “the work of ministry”? How does that reframe Miles’ words, “I’m going to preach less so that I can reach more”? This week, pick one: pray by name for our pastors and their families, or take one step toward serving, like children’s ministry or hospitality. And if asking is hard for you too, who could you ask to pray for you?

Further Reading: Ephesians 4:11–16; 1 Thessalonians 5:25; 2 Thessalonians 3:1–2; 1 Corinthians 3:4–9; Hebrews 10:24–25

6. Not in vain

In a discouraging season, Miles kept landing on Galatians 4:11 — “lest I have labored for you in vain” — until the Lord answered through Philippians 2. Read Philippians 2:1–16. Christ “made Himself of no reputation” and took the form of a servant. Verses 12–13 hold two things together: “work out your own salvation” and “it is God who works in you.” How is working out your salvation different from just working harder? What would it look like for us to “shine as lights” together, rather than a few carrying the load?

Further Reading: Galatians 4:11; Isaiah 49:4; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Matthew 5:14–16

Use these blended questions for deeper personal reflection, prayer, or small group discussion.