



[Understanding the Christ](#)

Episode 21 - When Fire Becomes Love: Luke 12 and the Baptism of Rebuke

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Scott Stanley explores Luke 12 to explain how Christ's message of rebuke — likened to fire — calls the church to live in love and be perfected in faith. He warns that true gospel witness brings division and resistance, and that faith is proven by patient, loving action rather than mere words.

The episode ties Jesus' baptism of suffering, Revelation's final messages, and the role of the Spirit together to show how living love under persecution refines believers and reveals the reality of salvation.

Modified Transcript:

Scriptures are transcribed directly with notations. Refer to KJV for verbatim wording.

Hi, my name is Scott Stanley. I am continuing a video cast concerning "Understanding the Christ." I began this for people who might be in the universal church, realizing there's more to the gospel, there's more to the truth, there's more to the Father and Son; there's more to humanity than what you've been hearing in your local church.

For those of you who began to suspect there's got to be more, there's something more to it; these videos are made for you. You can take them, listen to them, delete them, or do whatever you want to do. But I ask you to take the time to listen to them with your Bible in prayer and let the Lord minister to your heart.

What I want to share with you today really is the crux of our Christianity. It involves learning the truth of the love of God, how he manifested that love to us in sending his Son, and how we take that truth and apply it to our lives. We live it, and by living it, he helps you perfect your faith. Now, Luke chapter 12 is really what has inspired this video.

Understanding what I understand, I now can read Luke chapter 12 from verse 1, all the way to the end of it, and see how in the chapter it seems like Jesus changes the subject, but he isn't. Once you realize what he's talking about, you begin to grasp the importance of living in love, but you cannot do without an understanding of the cross.

So, I want to begin in Luke 12:1 and pick my way through this. There's a lot of ground to cover. If I wanted to, I could read dozens of scriptures in this video cast. I choose not to do that. But we're going to pick the ones that will help us make the point, and the point is that love, living in love, will perfect our faith.

Listen, for me, at one time, that would have been a boring subject. I wanted to see about the Antichrist and just all the prophecy things, and what's the dragon and who's the woman clothed with the sun. I had all of those questions, and for you to come up to me and say, "Well, we want to talk about love," I might have listened, but I wouldn't have listened intently.

Now I get it. I understand the importance of love. I think in the last videos that I've put up on this video cast, that we began to see Christ born in eternity, becoming a man, becoming Christ, giving his life to give us the privilege of walking in love and being made in the image of the only begotten Son of God.

So, the concepts I'm going to share with you really are a big deal. It's something really to consider and understand where God is coming from, how He is dealing with His church. So with that, I want to go to Luke chapter 12, reading from verse 1.

Luk 12:1 In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trod one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

Now, let me ask a question. What is the opposite of hypocrisy? If the Pharisees are there teaching what they're teaching and saying what they're saying, what is it that would make them hypocrites? Matthew chapter 23, let me read, starting at verse 1.

Mat 23:1 Then spoke Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples,

Mat 23:2 Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:

Mat 23:3 All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not after their works: (Why?) for they say, and do not.

Hence, they're hypocrites. Whatever they tell you to do, observe to do it. But remember, what they say, they don't do it. So don't do after what you see them do, but what they're telling you, they're getting from the scripture, you're going to have to have an understanding of the scripture, of the commandments, and whatever they're telling you, do it, but beware of their hypocrisy. James 2:17...

Jam 2:17 Even so faith, if it doesn't have works, it's dead, being alone.

Jam 2:18 A man may say, You have faith, and I have works: show me your faith without your works, I'll show you my faith by my works.

How in the world would you show somebody your faith without your works? You would do it with the Bible. I can sit here all day long and show you my faith, reading verses to you. But James said, "*I'll show you my faith by my life. You can see my life.*" Again, that points back to the Pharisees and the fact that they were hypocrites.

Now, this sets up where Christ eventually went with this in Luke 12. I want you to look back at Luke 12, starting at verse 49.

Luk 12:49 I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled?

Now, when he says fire, if we will, compare that to Isaiah 66:15.

Isa 66:15 For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire.

"Fire" is a symbol of "rebuke" (Isa 66:15), and Christ said, "*I have come to send fire on the earth*" (Luk 12:49). In other words, rebuke. What He was teaching about the kingdom of God, what He was teaching them about the Father, about salvation, about the law, was a rebuke to the way they understood it. What I want to do is tie this in to Revelation chapter 14, the third angel's message. I want to look at the third angel. There are two angels previously mentioned in this chapter, and we want to start at verse 9.

Rev 14:9 The third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark in his forehead, or hand,

Rev 14:10 That same person shall drink of the wine (or the doctrine) of the wrath of God, (Because that is the message of Babylon. It's an angry God that needs to be appeased.) ... He'll drink of the wine of the wrath of God. It's poured out without mixture (of truth) into the cup of his indignation; and he will be tormented with (what?) fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

He'll be tormented with fire. See, what you're reading here in Revelation 14 is the gospel being preached by the last generation church. It sends fire. It sends a rebuke. Christ said, "*I've come to send fire on the earth*" (Luk 12:49), and he did. But he's going to do it again through his last generation church. The message given by the last generation church, if you receive it, it is a blessing. If you reject it, if you reject the fire, if you reject God trying to help you and redeem your thinking, then it becomes a plague. It becomes something that you don't want to hear. Again, in Revelation 14, verse 11:

Rev 14:11 The smoke of their torment ascends up forever and ever: and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receives the mark of his name.

Now again, the smoke of their torment... Fear has torment (1Jn 4:18). For us to give a message to the world... and again, see, we're looking at two things here. We're looking at Jesus doing this himself. He put fire in the earth, but he's going to do it again through the last generation church, when the church goes forward and rebukes the Trinity

doctrine, rebukes why Jesus died... He didn't die to pay your sin debt. See, those things are a torment. These things are a plague. Why a torment? Fear has torment.

When you start telling people the truth, they will enter into fear. Why? They have been believing this all their lives, and now someone is coming along with the Bible and showing that something's not right in what you're saying. Something isn't right in what you're doing. You know what it means? You are not being saved. There is no such thing as praying a prayer and now you're saved. You can pray a prayer and be converted, and make a decision that you want to serve God. But you're not being saved if he isn't redeeming you from iniquity, and he is going to do that by giving you a message of rebuke or fire.

Fear has torment. So, when the message is given, it will be a plague to the majority of people, and it will be a torment. What do you think happens when they are being tormented? Do they just sit there and let you go on and on and on? Or do they come against you? Well, they're going to come against you, and that's what we're talking about.

The gospel is going to be given to the world. In the giving of the gospel, there's going to be a tribulation on the people who are speaking the truth of the gospel because people do not like to be tormented and plagued, and they will do what they can to resist you and come against you. When that happens, you have the next verse in Revelation 14, verse 12,

Rev 14:12 In this is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God (of love), and have the faith (or the understanding) of Jesus Christ.

Now, what did we just read? The message will be given, and people are going to be tormented. People will resist you, and in that resistance, you're going to see the patience of God's people. You see, that patience is perfecting your faith. You've been told to walk in love. Now, by speaking the truth and they're resisting you with their harsh words, you become a reproach. The word of God becomes a reproach.

But in their rebellion and denial of truth, in that will be seen the patience of the guy giving them the truth. If you're going to give the truth, you're going to have to do this in the commandments of God, which is what? Love. To love God and love your neighbor... and remain faithful to that truth, and let this scene, let this scenario, perfect your faith.

So let's go back to Luke 12. Again, I want to start reading verse 49.

Luk 12:49 I am come to send fire (or rebuke) on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled?

Luk 12:50 I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I pressed until it be accomplished?

What baptism? Does he mean a water baptism? No, he does not. I want to chain some verses together and give you an understanding to help you see what he means by "*I have a baptism.*" 1 Corinthians, chapter 10, reading from verse 1,

1Co 10:1 Moreover, brethren, I would not that you should be ignorant, how all of our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea;

1Co 10:2 And were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.

How in the world were they baptized into Moses? What do we mean? Because we're not talking about water baptism here. We're talking about the cloud and the sea. Let's turn back. Let me chain some verses together. 1 Corinthians 1, verse 13.

1Co 1:13 Is Christ divided? or was Paul crucified for you? or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

What would have happened if you had been baptized in the name of Paul? What does that mean? That means you would get baptized based on what Paul taught you, and Christ isn't divided. What Paul was teaching, they all were teaching. So you wouldn't want to say, "Well, Paul baptized me," and why would you do that? Because you're looking at it like "I'm baptized in Paul's teachings."

So what about Moses? They were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. Let me show you. Exodus 14, starting at verse 30.

Exo 14:30 Thus Jehovah saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore.

Exo 14:31 And Israel saw that great work which Jehovah did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared Jehovah (and did what?), and believed Jehovah, and his servant Moses.

Turn with me to the gospel of John chapter 9, we start reading at verse 28.

Jhn 9:28 Then they reviled him, and they said, You are his disciple; but we are Moses' disciples.

Jhn 9:29 We know that God spoke to Moses: as for this fellow, we don't know from where he is.

See, they were baptized into Moses. In other words, by living that life, living what they lived through, as God destroyed the Egyptians and brought them out of this bondage, they began to understand the teachings of Moses, and they were baptized into Moses. To me, it's no different than being baptized into Christ. Remember in Galatians 3, we're baptized into Jesus. We've put on Jesus (Gal 3:27). Romans 6, well, *if you've been baptized into Jesus, you were baptized into his death* (Rom 6:3).

That means somebody had to tell you about the death of Christ, and you're baptized into Jesus. It doesn't matter who is dunking you under the water. What matters is the truth that you have heard that has caused you to want to come and get in the water in the first place and be baptized into that truth. *Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life* (Jhn 14:6). You're baptized into truth, the truth of His death, and how that helps you. So, Luke 12, verse 50,

Luk 12:50 I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I pressed until it's accomplished!

Luk 12:51 Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, No; rather division:

Luk 12:52 For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three.

Luk 12:53 The father will be divided against the son, the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, the daughter in law against her mother in law.

That is why the baptism. He's going to send fire on the earth by giving a message of rebuke. When he does, it's going to cause divisions in homes, separations in families. His baptism is to remain in love and walk in love as all hell is breaking loose around him, which is exactly what he did. He manifested love. He's given you that warning. You see, fire is going to be tormenting the people hearing your truth, and in that scenario, you're going to see the patience of the saints, just like in that scenario you saw it in Jesus Christ. Now, again, back to Luke 12, starting at verse 54.

Luk 12:54 And he said also to the people, When you see a cloud rise out of the west, straightway you say, Well, there comes a shower; and so it is.

Luk 12:55 When you see the south wind blow, you say, Well, there's going to be heat; and it comes to pass.

Luk 12:56 You hypocrites...

Now there's your word. Beware the leaven of the Pharisees. Remember now, you're at the end of this chapter.

Luk 12:56 You hypocrites, you can discern the face of the sky and earth; but how is it you're not able to discern this time?

Luk 12:57 Yea, and why even of yourselves judging not what is right? (Now pay attention to this next statement he makes.)

Luk 12:58 When you go with your adversary to the magistrate...

Stop. The adversary is Satan. In fact, when you go back to the Old Testament, "Satan" is "adversity." It's the adversary. Satan is within each and every one of us. Now you're going to give a message, which is going to cause division. How are you going to handle the people coming against what you're teaching? Hopefully, as we saw, in patience... you're going to see the patience of the saints. This is what he is talking about. This is how you deal with it.

Luk 12:58 When you go with your adversary to the magistrate (the one who's going to act on it), when you go with your adversary to the magistrate, as you're in the way with the adversary, give diligence that you may be delivered from your adversity (which only happens with the cross); lest he hale you (your adversity, Satan within you, the author of iniquity)... hales you to the judge (that person, and that judgment delivers you to the one who's going to carry that out), and he will put you into prison (or the bondage of iniquity).

Luk 12:59 I'm telling you, you will not depart from that iniquity, till you've paid the uttermost mite.

What's the picture? You're going to give a message, it's going to create havoc, but what's happening? Well, I'm going to tell you, this is your baptism. Jesus had his baptism as he prepared to be perfected for the end of the world. You have your baptism, and he's given you the warning. *Beware the leaven of the Pharisees*. Why? Well, they don't do what they say they're supposed to do. Listen to what they're saying, but they don't do what they say. And you're going to be giving a message of the love of God.

You know what? The message of the love of God, the power that is in that truth, and developing that truth, helps you understand the Holy Spirit. It helps you understand the atonement. It gives you a reason and a way to act in patience when the world is exploding around you.

This is the message of Luke chapter 12. This is what he's trying to say, and I'm telling you right now, Luke 12 is loaded. He will make the statement that *"The Spirit of God will move on you as to what to say"* (Luk 12:12). It isn't just "what" ... you should go back and read that.

The Spirit of God will move on you as to how to say it. How and what to say. What is that? It would be love. The Spirit of God is the Holy Spirit. It isn't that He's going to prick your mind. Well, here's a verse. Well, here's a verse. Well, here's a verse. No. When they're coming against you, it is the power of the Spirit of God that can come into your mind and remind you to walk in love.

I'm not saying that truth will not give you words to say, but it's a truth; it's an understanding. It's not the third person of the Trinity. It is an understanding of God the

Father that will keep you, hopefully, level-headed, showing all patience in the midst of the torment of the universal church. In their fear, they will come against you. In the Holy Spirit, you can defend against it and remain in love and perfect your faith in the process.