

Bringing it Home For Sunday, August 17, 2025

By Allison de Kanel



Every Sunday in church we hear stories from the Bible. We pay special attention to stories about Jesus.

The Bible is a very important book you can hold and carry and read. It's also like a library, because it's full of smaller books. Some of them are history books. Some are books of poetry. Some tell about important people like Moses and King David.

Four of these smaller books are all about Jesus. We call these books Gospels. The word Gospel means "good news."

I bet you know the difference between good news and bad news. When you hear bad news, you feel sad. When you hear good news, you feel happy.

Sometimes, when we hear stories about Jesus, they don't sound like good news at all. Today's story is like that. Jesus talks about families who don't agree about him. Parents and kids argue, or maybe even yell, or walk out of the house. It doesn't make me feel happy to hear it. It sounds sad and scary.

So what makes today's story Good News?

When we hear today's story, or any story about Jesus that seems sad, we have to remember that there is a happy, even joyful, ending to the story.

Suppose your folks say, "Let's go on a hike today. It's a long walk, but I know you can do it." So, you start walking and it's fun, even though your feet begin to hurt. You stop and take a break and then keep going. But after a while, you want to turn around. So, one of your folks carries you for a while. Then you walk some

more, and suddenly you see it -- a beautiful view with a waterfall, and cool water for your sore feet, and you don't want to leave.

Today's story is one of the sore feet parts of the Good News about Jesus. Some people did turn around and stop following him. But the people that stuck with him got to the end. And they were there for the wonderful, joyful, happy ending part of the story, when Jesus rose from the dead and sent the Holy Spirit.

And so are we.

Amen.

Today's Gospel: Luke 12:49-56

Jesus said, "I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"