



Big Idea: To understand the times is to run for reconciliation.

1.) Halt the **HYPOCRISY (v. 54-56).**

- Jesus is establishing the basic fact that God has given people the ability to evaluate evidence and make a right conclusion.
- Jesus calls the crowds hypocrites because they **REFUSED** to apply that ability to Him and His message.
- It's easier to plead ignorance than unwillingness.

2.) See your **SENTENCE (v. 57).**

- Jesus is essentially asking this question: *"Why do you take time to analyze the weather but don't bother to analyze your eternal fate?"*
- We fail to analyze basic spiritual realities, not because we are unable, but because we are unwilling.
- It should be obvious to anyone who earnestly evaluates his spiritual condition that we are at odds with **GOD** (Romans 2:14-15).
- Jesus is summoning us to see our sentence, and our sentence is a verdict of **GUILTY**

4.) Run for **RECONCILIATION (v. 58-59).**

- Rightly discerning the times we live in will lead a person to run to Christ for reconciliation.

- The Allegory of the Magistrate
 - The magistrate here represents God, who will **JUDGE** the whole world by His perfect righteousness.
 - All of us are on our way to this magistrate, with our adversary, which is the **LAW** of God (Romans 7:8-10).
 - On the day we appear us before the righteous Judge, God's Law will be able to present an indisputable case against us if we aren't in Christ.
 - This call to be reconciled with our adversary is a charge from Christ to deal with the great debt of **SIN** that we owe before it is too late.
- If you see the signs of the times, then you will halt your hypocrisy and run after reconciliation with God.

Application

1.) Be **RECONCILED** to God through Christ.

- Make sure you are no longer condemned by the Law when you are set before the Judge (2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2).
- In Jesus Christ alone can we overcome the adversary of the Law (Romans 8:1-4).

2.) Live a **RECONCILED** life.

- People who truly discern the times we live in will be chiefly concerned with maintaining a right relationship with God.
- Make a **HABIT** of analyzing your spiritual condition and seeking its improvement every day (2 Corinthians 13:5).
- Live every day like it that ultimate day when we stand before the Judgment Seat of the Lord.