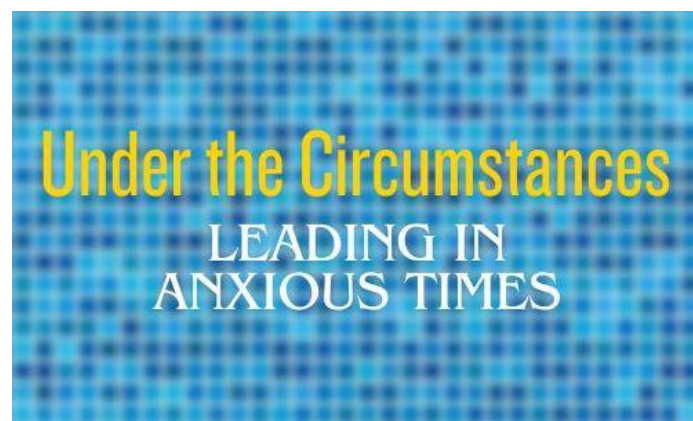


Royal Redeemer Going Deeper Guide

Based on the sermon for October 20, 2024
Under the Circumstances: Leading in Anxious Times
We vs. They



**For personal reflection or for use as a devotion
with a CGS Community or family**

- **Begin by reflecting on/sharing a high and/or a low from your week**

- **CONNECT**

- Where are you experiencing conflict in your life right now?

- **GROW**

Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. 52 From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. 53 They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

54 He said to the crowd: "When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, 'It's going to rain,' and it does. 55 And when the south wind blows, you say, 'It's going to be hot,' and it is. 56

Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret this present time?

57 "Why don't you judge for yourselves what is right? 58 As you are going with your adversary to the magistrate, try hard to be reconciled on the way, or your adversary may drag you off to the judge, and the judge turn you over to the officer, and the officer throw you into prison. 59 I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny."

Luke 12:51-59

- Share any words or phrases that speak into your life today.
- How might Jesus' words about division have been understood by His original audience, living under Roman rule and with strong religious traditions?
- The Jewish people expected the Messiah to bring peace. How do Jesus' words here challenge those expectations, and what might that reveal about the nature of His Kingdom?
- In verses 52-53, Jesus speaks about division even within families. What might this say about the cost of following Jesus, and how can this apply to leadership and decision-making in times of tension or crisis?
- How does the division Jesus speaks of challenge the idea that faith in God always brings harmony? How can this tension be understood in the context of leading people with different beliefs or opinions?
- In verse 56, Jesus challenges the people for being able to interpret the weather but not the

present time. What do you think Jesus means by this, and how can this challenge us to be more discerning as leaders in anxious or conflicted times?

- o In verses 57-58, Jesus advises settling matters before reaching the judge. How does this relate to the urgency of reconciliation, and why is it important for leaders to seek resolution in conflicts before they escalate?
- o Can division and conflict sometimes lead to spiritual or organizational growth? How might Jesus' words in this passage inform our approach to handling division within a community or group?
- o How does Jesus' acknowledgment of division challenge leaders to think differently about maintaining peace? How can a leader balance the need for harmony with standing firm on matters of conviction?

- **SERVE** *others*

In your own life or leadership, how do you navigate situations where division seems inevitable? What practical steps can you take to promote reconciliation, while still upholding the truth and values of your faith?

- **End with Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, or a short Blessing**