

GOODNEWS LETTER

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WEATHER WARNINGS

Jesus, to the multitude, "When you see a cloud riding in the west, immediately you say, 'A shower is coming,' and so it turns out. And when you see a south wind blowing, you say, 'It will be a hot day,' and it turns out that way. **You hypocrites! You know how to analyze the appearance of the earth and the sky, but why do you not analyze this present time?"** Lk 12:54-56.

These Jews (innumerable multitude, v1) were good at forecasting the weather. Yet, when it came to spiritual matters, their heads - and, certainly their hearts, remained in the clouds.

And, **Jesus** was hitting them with heavy stuff - truths that should have brought conviction that this teacher is indeed, **the Christ**.

In Luke 12, Jesus taught on: **Pharisees' leaven** (v1); **closet words to roof tops announcements** (v3); further, **fear Him who has power to cast one into hell** (v5, Gehenna); **God's eye is on all sparrows** (v6); and that, **He knows every hair on our head** (v7).

Surely, such sweet and powerful words would move these people to repentance. On judgment day, they will have to address these very words of Jesus; why not now? Our Lord must have thought that they would; so, He offers a plea for them in verses 8-9. "**Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God.**"

That would be enough for me - I wouldn't wait till 1959. I'd be down on my knees, then. But, the mind of the multitude was on the here and now. One man seems to express the attitude of everyone. "**Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me,**" verse 13. Of course, Jesus saw within the heart and taught them on "**covetousness**" (v15).

America has just finished an election which all the commentators remarked, "America voted her pocketbook." Economy over Principle?

On the subject of covetousness, Jesus put forward a parable (16-21), telling of a man that laid up treasures for himself, but was not rich toward God.

After making the point, Jesus apparently turns His attention to the disciples only; or, the prerequisite for discipleship - one, trusting God for everything. Jesus said that God will provide **food and raiment**. Then, He added, "**take no thought for you life**" (v22). The next 18 verses cover His words on Godly living - its considerations, challenges and readiness.

This prompted Peter to ask, "**Is this parable for us, or all** (v41)?" It's clear from the language of the following 11 verses that Jesus spoke to those with hearing ears. In other words, **servants** and **wise stewards** are appellatives attributed to disciples only.

MODERN DAY FORECASTING: It might help us if we think of the words of Jesus in terms of a weather front moving through our area. Like the modern **Doppler Radar** that shows all kinds of weather conditions, His teachings show the world's conditions; **and, in living color!**

When we studying hard to read His words in color coded signals - **green, yellow, red**, etc., we can view the world's activity much more closely. Certainly, we will be able to "**analyze this present time.**"

In Luke 12, we might consider the Person of Jesus to be the screen of life. As we listen intently to His words, and then, convert the message - its parables and spiritual truths, we are aware of the "**present time**," the time at hand,

There are some teachings for the Jews, alone; as in Matthew 24:1 and 2. Here, Jesus, after leaving the temple, prophesied to His disciples about the buildings. "**...There shall not be left here on stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.**"

Then, we know of other truths (most) that are for all times; especially, those living in the last days. Yet, in all times, the Lord warned about **deceiving prophets** (24:5, 11); **plight of disciples** (24:9). He even spoke on Daniel's prophecy on the **abomination of desolation** (24:15).

As Jesus speaks, colors should appear like a weather screen, bringing conviction in the heart of every disciple, no matter the time. We must notice the bright colors that reveal degrees of **Famine, pestilence** and **wars**. These yellows, orange and red colors are signs of heavy trials and disastrous events coming on the world.

According to a web site, Doppler Radar converts radio waves, placing them in a particular color of an electromagnetic wavelength. Our cell phones, TV's and radios also operate by transmitted radio waves.

When we hear the sound of the words of Jesus, His transmission of truth is picked up in our hearts, converting the message that signals lucid colors on the screen of His life. Don't forget that "**Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ**," John 1:17.

However, Jesus never guesses. He's no ordinary weatherman. He knows when the time will be and wants His people to be ready. He forecasts from the beginning from the end; for He is, "**the Alpha and Omega**" (Rev. 1:8).

Some of the LORD'S warnings have been bright **RED**, involving a flurry of activity within His people, the Jews. Their rejection of the Messiah will be

recorded in the next chapter of Luke. "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem...how often I would have gathered they children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!" (Lk. 13:34).

The Jews could not analyze their **present time**. The question is, 'Do we?' Sometimes, His words are **bold** and **vivid** in our minds and hearts. Others times we fail to listen. At all times, His blessings are to be received with thankfulness; and, His warnings are to be heeded with fear.

But, if we don't make the needed conversion, taking His words to actualities, we never will see truth nor be ready. Many, in the Lord's day of coming to earth, will be like the Jews who saw His presence and heard His words, but failed to trust in Him as Savior and Lord. Hence, no conversion. They forgot to take their weather forecasting heads out of the clouds.

Thus, the precious words Jesus, as presented in Luke 12, were unheard and, remain unheeded, even today. **Is it tradition? Family?** Whatever, the point is: His presence is never understood nor received by many. It is, the "**little flock**" that shall be given the kingdom. "**It is your Father's good pleasure,**" Luke 12:32.

To the Jews, Jesus asked, "**How is it that ye do not discern this time?**" (v 57). How about Christians, even Baptists? We must redeem out time, Brethren!

Jesus speaks about much activity at the end of this world. Look again at the radar screen, it's covered with **RED** - dark **RED**! There's the **RED** horse that takes peace from the earth (Rev 6:4).

Although the Lord's words are sometimes printed in **RED**, the meaning of His words carry severe consequences; for those serving and those not serving. His Red words goes beyond ink. Look up! Even the moon becomes as blood, a deep **RED**.

The last book of the Bible pictures a **RED** dragon. He attempts an attack on the nation Israel, but God protects Her. Then, Satan goes after the remnant of the woman's seed, which keep the commandments of God (Rev 12:3-17).

Let us learn what His words means. He is the only true prophet. Therefore, on the radar screen of time, the brilliant words of Jesus are meant to color the intensity of the coming events. They are in **RED, the color of warning!**

So, there's no wonder why the phrase, "**As it is written**" means that we must take notice and be ready for: "**Wars and rumors of wars**" (Mt. 24:6) that shall sweep through time. But, also know that, "**the end is not yet**" (Mt. 24:6).

Jesus is not always so harsh. He also offers comfort to all. "**See that ye be not troubled:**" (Mt. 24:6). He came to save all. The Jews look for thousands of years for their Messiah. When it finally came, they couldn't recognize the time. But, Jesus, the Christ (Messiah) was in their midst.

These Jews, like people in every age, concern themselves with natural signs of the world more than the spiritual truth as described in the teachings of Jesus. He asked, "How is it that ye do not discern this time?" (v 57). And, "Yea, and why even of yourselves judge ye not what is right?" (v57).

Finally, in verse 58, Jesus tells how serious a matter this is. He warns the multitude (and everyone) to **plead with the adversary** and try to get delivered. Otherwise, he will give you to the judge, the judge delivers you to the officer and he casts you into prison (Lk 12:58).

Jesus is saying that today is the day of salvation. Wake Up!!! Don't go to court; especially, the eternal court of heaven. You will always lose. Avoid that by receiving His words of warning and then, receive Him.

If you have enough sense to discern the weather, you should be able to discern this time. Everyone today must plead for forgiveness before being delivered to the judge. Don't be hypocrites!!!