

## Coronavirus: What is God Saying?

April 5, 2020

### Luke 12:54-56 Interpret the Signs of the Times

*Luke 12:54-56 ESV*

*54 He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, 'A shower is coming.' And so it happens.*

*55 And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens.*

*56 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?*

Matthew 24:7-8 NKJV

7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.

8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.

- Is the end near? Are these the last days?
- A pandemic has all of the necessary components for the Tribulation.
  - Fear and panic (*knee-jerk reactions of desperation*).
  - Overreach of human authority and power (*for the "good of the people"*).
  - Need for global government and economy (*the problems of society have become greater than any one nation can solve*).
- **When we see the signs of the approaching Tribulation, what does Jesus tell us to focus on (because what man focuses on is never what God focuses on)?**

### Luke 12:1-3 Beware of Hypocrisy

*Luke 12:1-3 ESV*

*1 In the meantime, when so many thousands of the people had gathered together that they were trampling one another, he began to say to his disciples first, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.*

*2 Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known.*

*3 Therefore whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed on the housetops.*

- Religion that is more pretense than power; outward but no heart change.
- Religion that is self-assertive but not surrendered.
- Religious hypocrisy will fail under the fire and stress of tribulation.

Matthew 16:24 ESV

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

## Luke 12:4-7 Do Not Fear the World

*Luke 12:4-7 ESV*

4 "I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do.

5 But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!

6 Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God.

7 Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.

- The fact that public sentiment will turn against Christianity is not a "if" but a "when."
- The most man can do to you is kill the body, but man will NEVER be able to cast your soul into Hell.
- We are more worried about our physical life which is but a vapor, rather than our spiritual life which is forever.
- The value we place on our physical, earthly life is grossly exaggerated to the point of idolatry.

*"You can kill us, but you cannot hurt us." —Justin Martyr*

## Luke 12:8-12 Do Not Deny the Lord

*Luke 12:8-12 ESV*

8 And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God,

9 but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God.

10 And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

11 And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say,

12 for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.

- Blaspheming the Holy Spirit is different than blaspheming the Son of Man.
- The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to bring illumination; to open the spiritual eyes and ears, to illuminate the heart, to convey Truth that is impossible for man to receive without divine, supernatural intervention.
- When you deny what you know to be true by the Holy Spirit, then there is no excuse for the denial, because you know what you know by a divine, miraculous intervention.
- People can speak against the Son of Man in ignorance. But once they have received the illumination of the Holy Spirit, there is no more ignorance.

## Luke 12:13-21 Beware of Covetousness

*Luke 12:13-21 ESV*

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

14 But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?"

15 And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

16 And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully,

17 and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?'

18 And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.

19 And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry."'

20 But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?'

21 So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

- The problem with hoarding money, food and supplies is that it steals your heart from a trust and dependence upon God.
- All that you have hoarded can be gone in a moment, but God's provision cannot be stolen.
- Hoarding is the idolatry of the earthly, physical life. It is the worship of self - all that matters is that self is preserved and cared for.
- Covetousness is the obsession and worship of the earthly to such a degree that the spiritual is abandoned.

## **Luke 12:22-34 Be Not Anxious, But Be Carefree**

*Luke 12:22-34 ESV*

22 And he said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on.

23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.

24 Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!

25 And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?

26 If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest?

27 Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

28 But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith!

29 And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried.

30 For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them.

31 Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

32 Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

33 Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys.

34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

- The fear and the stress in tribulation and trials will destroy your faith and destroy your character until you learn the discipline of casting your care onto the Lord.

## Luke 12:35-48 Always Be Ready to Stand Before the Lord

Luke 12:35-38 ESV

35 Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning,

36 and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks.

37 Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them.

38 If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants!

39 But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into.

40 You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

41 Peter said, "Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?"

42 And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time?

43 Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.

44 Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions.

45 But if that servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk,

46 the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful.

47 And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating.

48 But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating.

Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.

- What are you saying or doing now, that would make you embarrassed and ashamed before the Lord? That is what needs to stop and this (when you see the signs) is the very time it must stop.
- Carefully note that God watches how we treat others and He hates abuse.

## Luke 12:49-53 Don't Be Surprised by Intimate Betrayals and Deep Divisions

Luke 12:49-53 ESV

49 I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled!

50 I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished!

51 Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.

52 For from now on in one house there will be five divided, 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 her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

- The decision to deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Jesus is an individual decision, not a tribal decision.
- Many of those who are the closest to you will make the wrong decision and view you as the enemy.