

Message #66

Luke 12:54-59

There was a couple who came home one evening from visiting some friends. As they got to their front door they noticed that it appeared as if the door had been pried open. The closer they looked at it, they decided that someone had broken into their home. Now instead of them thinking there could be a burglar inside, we had better go call the police, they decided to enter their home. They did not have a concealed weapon, they just went in. The result was they ended up being beaten badly by the intruder. They both lived, but they suffered greatly. If they had it to do all over again, they would have responded to the early signs. They would never have ignored the evidence that they clearly saw. Had they responded right to those signs, they would have saved themselves much destruction, loss and pain.

The vast majority of people in this world are doing the same thing right now with eternity. There are indications that we are nearing the end of the church age. There are evidences that we are nearing the Rapture and then the Tribulation. In congress, there is a major animosity building toward Israel. There is an unusual rise in national lawlessness. There is no fear of God and there is no reverence for the word of God. Abominable immorality is flaunted. People who claim to be religious love pleasure more than God. There are unusual predator animal attacks - sharks, gators, bears, lions. There are unusual weather patterns and there are plague-like things that are hitting this nation.

All of these things point to the fact that the clock is ticking and God's judgment is very soon. Most people will ignore this evidence. Most people won't prepare. Most people won't make changes. Most people, who could have prevented eternal destruction and loss, won't!

That message was the one Jesus Christ wanted to send to everyone. Christ wanted the "crowds" (v. 54) to hear it. He wanted the crowds to realize there is coming a day of future judgment and they better prepare for it and get right with Him.

What Jesus teaches is this:

GOD'S JUDGMENT IS COMING TO ONE WHO REJECTS JESUS CHRIST AND UNLESS A PERSON IS WILLING TO JUDGE HIMSELF IN THIS LIFE, HE WILL FACE A VERY DESTRUCTIVE JUDGMENT OF GOD.

It is imperative that people settle their spiritual matters here and now. If one ignores the warnings of coming judgment and gets into court before God, it will be too late. That one will eternally lose.

It is far wiser to believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior now rather than face Him as your judge later. He will soon appear and now is the time to believe on Him and be saved.

The previous teaching had been primarily aimed at the disciples but now He aims it at the "crowds."

To develop this theme, Jesus gives four very pointed instructions to this huge crowd:

INSTRUCTION #1 – People are able to predict God’s weather. **12:54-55**

Jesus Christ begins by making a very true basic statement about weather. Generally speaking, most people are able to observe basic things about the weather. Most people are able to read some very basic atmospheric signs. There are two atmospheric realities most people can see:

Atmospheric Reality #1 - Most people are able to read the signs that it will rain. **12:54**

In Palestine, it was not too difficult to determine when it would rain. All one had to do was look to the west, which is pretty much what we have to do. Rain clouds typically form out in the Mediterranean Sea. You could actually look out into the sea and at times actually see the rain coming.

When one looked out into the sea and saw the sky had turned dark, one pretty much knew rain was on the way. Any country with a western seaboard knows the reality of this. We here know the reality of it. When we look to the west and see the dark clouds forming, we may assume rain is on the way.

The point Christ is making is this: when you look at the world and see it is becoming darker and darker, you may know that the soon return of Jesus Christ is imminent.

Atmospheric Reality #2 - Most people are able to read the signs that it will be hot. **12:55**

To the south east of Palestine was the Arabian desert and to the extreme south of Palestine is the Sinai Peninsula, that to this day only gets about two inches of rain per year. When those south winds begin to blow, those hot blasts of sirocco winds would easily enable one to predict a scorching hot day.

The point that Christ is making is that just about everyone can discern God’s weather signals. Meteorologists can very accurately predict what the weather will be and when it will arrive. They can even show pictures of the weather and the speed in which it is traveling.

INSTRUCTION #2 – Religious hypocrites are not able to predict God’s program. **12:56**

Most people are able to predict things that pertain to the physical weather but have no idea as to things pertaining to their own spiritual soul.

Christ says to the crowd “you hypocrites.” He was sick of babying this crowd. He was getting fed up with their hypocrisy. That word “hypocrite” really gives insight as to why the majority of people could not figure out who Jesus Christ is and could not figure out what the program of God was all about.

The word means “play-actor.” The majority of people in this massive crowd were play acting and pretending to be right with God, when in all reality they were not right with God. They didn’t have a clue as to who Christ was or what He was doing.

Christ says you religious frauds can analyze things on earth and in the sky, but you are not able to analyze anything from this present time. The present time to which He is referring was the time He was on earth, trying to convince people to believe on Him and follow Him so they could have a proper relationship with God.

The majority of people were following the traditions and religion of men and Jesus said you can’t even see the truth concerning who I am, when I am standing right here right now. This is mind boggling. These people could figure out the weather, but they actually have God standing in their presence and can’t see it.

These people should have clearly seen the signs of who Christ was. Let’s just think of some physical things these religious people could have seen and known. This does not even include the lineage matters that they could have researched. Here are nine very visible, tangible signs these Jews should have seen and known and then realized Jesus Christ was the God/Savior/Messiah/King:

Sign #1 - The God/Savior/Messiah/King would be born of a virgin - Is. 7:14; Luke 1:26-35.

Sign #2 - The God/Savior/Messiah/King would be born in Bethlehem - Micah 5:2; Luke 2:1-7.

Sign #3 - The God/Savior/Messiah/King would be introduced by an eastern star -
Num. 24:17/Matt. 2:7-10.

Sign #4 - The God/Savior/Messiah/King would be introduced to Israel by a forerunner-
Is. 40:3/Luke 3 - John was the forerunner of Jesus Christ and they knew it.

Sign #5 - The God/Savior/Messiah/King would perform miraculous healings - Is. 35:5-6.
Jesus had spoken to diseases and diseases obeyed Him (Luke 3:39).

Sign #6 - The God/Savior/Messiah/King would command the weather and it would obey Him-
Ps. 107:25, 29 - Jesus had spoken to storms and storms obeyed Him (Luke 8:25).

Sign #7 - The God/Savior/Messiah/King can send demons wherever He decides - Judges 9:23;
I Sam. 16:15; 18:10.
Jesus had spoken to demons and demons obeyed Him (Luke 4:42, 8:26-36).

Sign #8 - The God/Savior/Messiah/King would be able to raise the dead - Ez. 37:13; Is. 26:19.
Jesus had spoken to dead people and dead people obeyed Him (Luke 7:14-16).

Sign #9 - The God/Savior/Messiah/King would be able to heal deformed people - Is. 29:18; 35:6.
Jesus had spoken to deformities and deformities obeyed Him (Luke 5:18-20).

Jesus Christ had fulfilled every one of these things and had done most of these things right before most of their eyes. No one ever has or ever will be able to do what He did. These people lived it; they experienced it; they saw it.

Come on. These people could read weather signs but they couldn't see these amazing signs performed by the Son of God? They are hypocrites. They are spiritually brain dead. How could you see so much evidence and still reject Him? You have to be a religious phony and play actor and phony.

You tell me any other person in history who meets the criteria here. If you cannot see who Jesus Christ is, you are a religious hypocrite who is as brain dead as these people. The next time you see clouds forming in the west or the next time you feel the warm breeze blowing from the south, make this prediction; I will face Jesus Christ one day. Just as sure as those clouds are forming and the wind is blowing, I will face Jesus Christ and I do not want to be a play-acting hypocrite.

INSTRUCTION #3 – Religious hypocrites refuse to judge their own condition. **12:57**

One thing you may always count on from a religious hypocrite, he will never judge himself honestly. A hypocrite loves to judge others, but behind the scenes he refuses to analyze and judge his own life.

That word “judge” is one that refers to pronouncing a judicial decision upon someone from a legal position. The problem with a hypocrite is that he will not legally judge himself by the standards of the word of God. He judges himself by his own criteria. He refuses to admit his own guilt and he refuses to change. He is quick to call others guilty (i.e. 13:2-3, 4-5), but he will never call himself guilty. It is not that a hypocrite can't judge himself; it is that he won't judge himself.

A hypocrite loves to talk about God and talk about how God sends the rain and hot weather. He loves to give his opinions about theological topics, but he will not ever judge himself.

INSTRUCTION #4 – Religious hypocrites had better judge things pertaining to their own future judgment. **12:58-59**

Verse 58 gives us a picture of a hypocrite being dragged into court to appear before the high ranking judge. The context is that he is in this court because of some legal matter with an opponent.

The obvious implication is that the opponent does have a case against the hypocrite and Matthew, in his commentary, says the hypocrite needs to resolve this before he gets into court (Matt. 5:25)

Jesus says you need to make every effort to settle this with Him. You need to do whatever it takes to get released from this court appearance that will determine you are a hypocrite.

Jesus says you need to settle this case with Me right here and right now. The opponent of the religious hypocrite is Jesus Christ. Christ is saying you had better get this resolved before you get before Me because if you don't, you will make full payment for your hypocrisy.

Christ says you had better get this resolved because I will require full payment for everything you have ever done.

You will be thrown into the judgment prison. There is no release; there is no parole because the sentence will be eternal.

Listen - you had better settle your sin case with God before you get before God. If you get before God, not having settled your sin case, you will pay for every sin you have ever committed and you will never get out of hell.

There is only one way to resolve this. There is only one way to escape the condemnatory judgment of God that this is to believe in Jesus Christ (Rom. 3:21-28).

The clouds are forming indicating facing Jesus Christ is soon to happen. You don't want to be a religious play actor when He comes.

What in the world would prevent you from inviting Jesus Christ into your life to be your Savior? If you don't see your need of a Savior, if you don't see yourself as a sinner, you are a religious hypocrite heading to a court case you will forever lose.

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and ask Him to come into your life right now and be saved and your case will be closed.