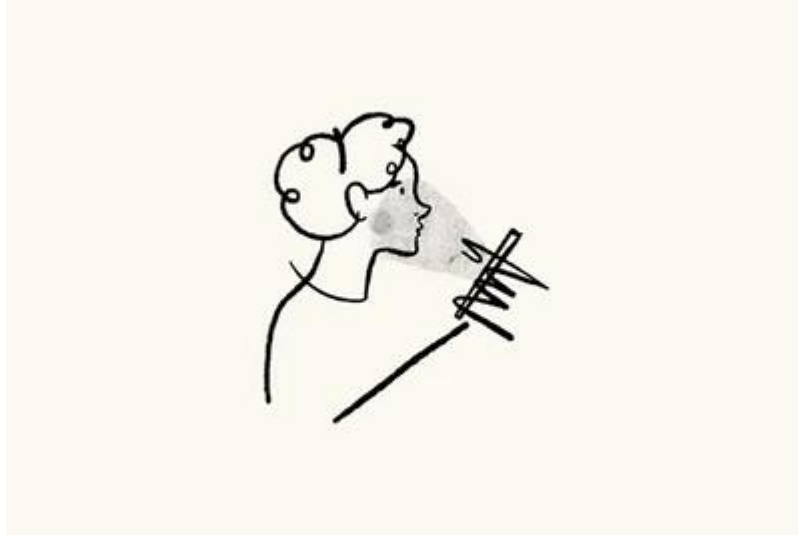


INTERPRETING THE PRESENT TIME



“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?”

Luke 12:56

Interpret the present time?

Seems like no one has a clue about the present time.

Pandemics,

weird weather,

social unrest,

economic disaster,

hunger,

homeless millions.

We hear the voice of a man who is largely ignored, even by those who claim to be his followers.

“You can figure out the weather.

How come you can't figure out what's going on in front of your nose?”

When Jesus says to us, “Why can't you interpret the present time?” he is telling us...

“You can't stop the Pandemic.

You can't change the weather.

You can't quiet the rage of the suffering masses,
The economic melt-down is beyond your control.

But one thing you can do:

You can get your own act together."

To get our act together, in the face of the growing chaos, there are two things we can do:

We can get right with our neighbor.

We can get right with God.

We can get right with our neighbor.



So if you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Make friends quickly with your accuser, while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison; truly, I say to you, you will never get out till you have paid the last penny.

Matthew 5:23-26

Now is the time to take care of it.

To make things right with the one we have wronged.

To change our attitude toward the people we've ignored and despised.

To pay attention to the “Lazarus” who keeps calling on the phone.

To send some money to help feed the hungry.

We can get right with our God.



***“The time is fulfilled, the Kingdom of God is at hand.
Repent, and believe the good news.”***

Mark 1:15

Every time Jesus uses the word “Repent” he is telling us to get right with God.

There were some present at that very time who told him of the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered thus? I tell you, No; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

Or those eighteen upon whom the tower in Silo'am fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who dwelt in Jerusalem?

I tell you, No; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

Luke 13:1-5

“Repent” means turn around and pay attention to what God has to say.

To confess our hardness of heart.

To cry out for forgiveness.

To get under the Master’s yoke and learn humility.

To let God's Spirit teach us how to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Those gathering clouds out there are clouds of Judgment.

It's time to wake up and interpret the present time.



And get our act together.

Prayer

*Yes Lord help us to get our acts together. Help us to get our minds off of trying to interpret and deal with what's happening around us ...and instead help us to focus on what's happening **within us**. Convict us of our attitudes towards our fellow humans. Enable us to make amends, to love, to give generously, to have true compassion. And Lord, most of all we repent. We repent that our hearts have lost focus. We confess our hardness of heart during these times. Forgive us, draw us under your loving yoke, teach us how to love you with all that we have, so we will not be overcome by the approaching clouds.*



THE LAMB
WHO WAS SLAIN
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN

Message written June 2020 REB

Art: All images via Unsplash... free photos for all.



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