

MORE RELIABLE THAN THE WEATHERMAN

Luke 12:54-59

Weather => "Meteorology"

"The only area of science where you must score less than 50% to pass."

"The computer is credited with an impressive improvement in the accuracy of weather prediction. Over a 10-year period, forecasting has improved—the outlook for tomorrow is now as accurate as the forecast for tonight used to be—a 12-hour improvement!"

Have you noticed? Can you imagine what it USED to be like?!!

One commentator says: "The Weather Bureau has changed its name to "Environmental Science Services Administration"—and we still get six inches of snow when the forecast says "Partly Cloudy.""

Farm Journal: "The most annoying thing about weather forecasts: they're not wrong all the time either."

An old man was sitting in front of an old general store/gas station, holding a short piece of rope. A tourist asked him what it was for. "It's a weather gauge," replied the old man. "When it swings back and forth the wind is blowing. When it gets wet it's raining."

A retiring weather man, asked the secret of his success reporting the weather: just before the forecast he would ask someone to look outside and tell him what the weather was doing."

Luke 12 indicates that Jesus' hearers had a reliable method.

Every geographical area has local evidences—pretty reliable indicators of what the weather is going to do:

- Clouds coming over Mount Olympus.
- Warming trend in the midst of a cold winter.
- Certain cloud patterns on the sea.

PEOPLE WERE PRETTY GOOD AT KNOWING WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE WEATHER.

They could predict a storm with a large degree of accuracy.

In Guatemala we learned where real storms come from. Heavy clouds could roll in from 2 or 3 directions and never rain. But when the clouds came over the mountain from a certain direction, we knew it was coming. Only hurricanes on the Caribbean would throw the system off.

Storms came to Israel from the west, so when it clouded up in the west, they knew a storm was brewing.

Like the Santa Ana winds in So. Cal., warm desert winds blew in from the southeast. Wind from the southeast meant the weather was going to turn hot.

They understood these physical signs about the weather,
But couldn't see "the hand writing on the wall" concerning God's plan.

They couldn't see what was coming from God's perspective.

THEY PAID MORE ATTENTION TO THE WEATHER THAN TO THE HISTORICAL EVENTS AFFECTING THEIR FUTURE.

They were hypocritical in that, while pretending to be religious, **they were more interested in the weather than in the mighty work God was doing.**

Jesus warns the people of that generation that they had better wake up and realize the significance of the days in which they are living. 12:54-56

JESUS IS ON HIS WAY TO JERUSALEM TO DIE (9:51-19:27).

HE HAS BEEN REJECTED ALL ALONG THE WAY 9:51-11:54

NOW HE IS GIVING IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS IN THE LIGHT OF GROWING REJECTION 12:1-19:27

After describing appropriate conduct for those who follow Him, Jesus again addresses the issue of rejection.

The decision concerning rejection or acceptance of Jesus will produce different consequences for the two groups (12:49-13:9).

A CHOICE THAT DIVIDES 12:49-53

**Jesus' coming obligates people to choose: accept or reject Him
That decision divides people and serves as basis for judgment.**

A WARNING FROM THE WEATHER 12:54-56

Important Significance of the times

Jesus addresses the multitude again.

He warned them to be ready because He is coming when they least expect it.

They have not recognized the signs—not aware of the risk nor ready for His coming.

They could tell when a storm was coming.

They could tell when it was about to turn hot.

People had learned to determine whether a day would be clear or rainy, or hot or cool, by studying the clouds and the wind.

But they could not recognize the signs of the times.

THEY COULD EVALUATE WHAT THEY WERE SEEING IN THE SKY, BUT THEY DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO EVALUATE THE TIMES IN WHICH THEY WERE LIVING.

The people of that generation had better wake up and realize the significance of the days in which they are living.

Christ had given signs to authenticate His person.

From these signs the people should have learned the significance of the days in which they lived.

They had prophetic scriptures and should have seen what God was doing.

They couldn't see in Jesus' works and words that He was the Christ. They needed to recognize who He was and settle accounts with Him.

They are hypocrites—paid attention to the superficial—to the weather which they were interested in—but they ignored what was important.

Arndt: *"They were unable to see the character of the times because they did not want to see it."*

They understood the winds of earth, but not the winds of God.

They did not discern the storm rising that would bring destruction in A.D. 70.

Severe Consequences of choice 12:57-13:9

A WARNING FROM THE JUDGE 12:57-59

Make the right decision before it's too late. Consequences of rejection are severe.

Due to the importance of the issues at stake, they had better concentrate on getting some answers about what is right.

This is too important a matter to leave in somebody else's hands.

They had better make sure they are right! 12:57

THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT FOR THEMSELVES WHAT IS RIGHT!

An important legal illustration: 12:58-59

Their opponent is about to take them before the Judge.

They need to resolve their conflict while there is still time.

Otherwise, He is going to take them to the Judge Who will examine the case and make them pay their debt in full.

In light of the impending judgment, He urges them to seek reconciliation with the adversary before they get to the Judge.

This is one of those cases they were sure to lose in court.

- Better to make a deal in advance.
- Better to solve "out of court" – make peace with Him while there is time.

The accused: Israel – headed toward judgment

The accuser (adversary, opponent): Christ [Their Messiah]

The Judge: Yahweh God

The people of that generation should seek to be reconciled with their Opponent, or He will drag them before the Judge where they will be condemned.

It will be too late once they get in front of the Judge!

The primary application is for "God's people" who weren't really and didn't care to prepare for His coming.

They need to settle with Him before they stand before the Judge and it's too late to go back and change.

It will be too late to set things right in eternity!

When they stand before the Judge, He will inflict the just penalty to the letter of the law – every last penny of what is owed.

If you don't make peace with the opponent – if they don't settle with Jesus – the Judge will demand that you pay every penny you owe!

The direct application for the family of God is not the same– But parallel.

"Only one life will soon be past– Only what's done for Christ will last!"

When He does come it will be too late to do the things we have left waiting

Will we regret that we have waited to do those things we always wanted to do until it's too late?

Settle out of court! Do it now!

Use your time wisely for the night is coming when it will be too late.

How tragic!

- In our scientific age men can analyze the stars, but can't tell who made them.
- They can tell us how to get to the moon, but can't tell us how to get to heaven
- Our world possesses scientific knowledge, but no understanding of spiritual essentials, issues of life and eternal death.
- If we knew a storm was coming, we would prepare for it.
- If we knew officers were coming to take us to court, we would get the best lawyers and try to settle the case out of court.

If Christ is coming soon and judgment will follow, we should prepare for it.

When Jesus came the first time the people could not discern the signs. We need to be alert that the same thing not happen when He comes again.

It will be at an hour when people don't expect it.
We need to be ready, watching for His coming.

Many things are happening in our world that cause us to believe our Lord's return could be soon! We need to be ready!

Are you ready? Are you watching for His coming?