

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

READING THE SIGNS

Luke 12:54-56 “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. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. 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?”

Red in the morning, sailors take warning. Red at night, sailors delight. I grew up using these two signs utilizing them to predict what the weather would be like for the next twelve to twenty-four hours. And, you know what, it was probably as accurate as the forecasters on radio and T.V.

Living in Palestine, it didn’t take a degreed meteorologist to predict the weather. With the Mediterranean to the west and the desert to the east clouds coming from the west going east meant there was a high likelihood of rain. Winds coming from the east going west picked up the dry, hot air of the desert indicating the weather would be hot and dry with no rain in sight.

Jesus’ teaching point in today’s devotional verses is in the same way you can determine the type of weather that was coming by looking at the clouds from the west and recognizing the winds were blowing from the east and south from the desert so God had given the Jews numerous signs for them to observe and know of the coming of the Messiah to take away their sins and the sins of the world. The Old Testament had over 700 of these signs. They knew the words but ignored their message.

God has furnished from virtually the beginning of time till now His Signs of Grace. From His promise of a Savior to Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:15) to the familiar Gospel promises you have learned such as delivered by the Angel to Joseph (Matthew 1:21) and from the very voice of God at Jesus’ baptism (Matthew 3:13ff) and again at Jesus’ transfiguration (Luke 9:28ff) attesting to Jesus being the Messiah promised in the Old Testament. Nothing more is needed to know than that Jesus is the promised Son of God, sent to save you and all people from their sins.

Prayer: Yahweh, keep me steadfast in Your word by Your Spirit giving my heart the eyes to see and faith to believe that Jesus is the only one You promised you would send to take away my sins and give me His righteousness. Amen.

When to our world the Savior came
The sick and helpless heard His name,
And in their weakness longed to see
The healing Christ of Galilee.

That good physician! Night and day
The people thronged about His way;
And wonder ran from soul to soul,
"The touch of Christ has made us whole!"

His praises then were heard and sung
By opened ears and loosened tongue,
While lightened eyes could see and know
The healing Christ of long ago.

Of long ago: yet living still,
Who died for us on Calv'ry's hill;
Who triumphed over cross and grave,
His healing hands stretched forth to save.

His sov'reign purpose still remains
Who rose in pow'r, and lives and reigns;
Till ev'ry tongue confess His praise,
The healing Christ of all our days.
(LSB 551)