

Normal Is Not the "Normal"

A Reflection in a Season of Pandemic

Reflections Prayer, Repentance and the Spiritual Life 19 April 2020

Matthew 6:10 (quoted)

Mark 1:15 (quoted)

Luke 17:22-24 (quoted)

When we try to analyse the present coronavirus situation through the prism of worldly wisdom, it is like the proverbial weather forecast: "may or may not." We can get only that close to an answer.

My concern is this: why not look at it through the prism of the Bible, and especially of the Gospel account? Governments and the media, all over the world, seem to think they are in command. Spirituality is pushed to the back burner; we do not hear many speak on the subject. The way I see it — and no one need agree with me — is that what we considered "normal" was never truly the "normal" in the eyes of Jesus. It is, in fact, quite abnormal, and He made it amply clear that a new creation, a new world order, is at hand. We keep praying, every day, perhaps many times a day, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10, King James Version). The Kingdom of Heaven for which we plead is the "normal" that has yet to be fully established here on earth. Do we try to understand what that "normal" is? We need not blame ourselves too harshly; we have simply not been cleansed enough, nor made enough room within our inner selves for the Holy Spirit to work upon us, so that we might understand what that "normal" is.

Jesus said, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:15, King James Version). He went on to tell us: "And he said unto the disciples, The days will come, when ye shall desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, and ye shall not see it. And they shall say to you, See here; or, see there: go not after them, nor follow them. For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day" (Luke 17:22-24, King James Version).

We need to hear more and more spiritual discourse. All of us who claim to be believers must read the Bible more regularly, and study its message, with the same diligence with which we do everything else to protect ourselves from this deadly virus.

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