

Sermon Title – Are You Missing the Moment?

Sermon Text – Luke 12:56 – New Living Translation

“You fools! ... You know how to interpret the weather signs of the earth and sky, - but you don’t know how to interpret the present times.”

Introduction

Let me begin this morning with a question ... If a significant spiritual event was occurring in your life right now – would you recognize it as such? ... If the Holy Spirit was trying to get your attention – or guide you through a situation – would you even understand that was happening?

Last week we established a critical key principle in our awakening journey ... We discovered that the Holy Spirit will intentionally interrupt the “normal flow” of your life ... He will step into your daily routine and disrupt your patterns ... His intent is to break you out of auto-pilot mode – as He knows the dangers – that causes in your life ... These disruptions are designed to awaken you to the realities of kingdom life – which are far more beneficial – than this natural life.

This week we are going to dig a bit deeper into this intentional process of collision / disruption ... We need to look deeper – than just recognizing – that a disruption has occurred – that is pretty obvious ... When the disruption happens – knowing there is an intention behind it – we need to look past the obvious – and look deeper within.

Let me remind you of an obstacle that will keep us from looking deeper ... As humans – we desire and seek to live in comfort and peace ... So – when a disruption occurs – we try to fix it – so everything goes back to normal as quickly as possible ... Our desire is to return to our normal – but the Spirit desires we go deeper ... We have been trained that a disruption to our “normal life” is bad and needs to be fixed ... But the Spirit is attempting to retrain us ... This is the tension we experience at these times of collision.

We need to learn – this tension – or whatever emotional feeling you experience during the disruption – is an indicator of something within us – that needs to be identified and rectified ... It is not simply a problem that needs to be fixed and mitigated – so the internal tension is relieved ... So – as we jump in this morning – into the deep waters of the Spirit ... We need to properly recognize a collision event – and deal with it properly

You Recognize a Collision by What Is Being Revealed Within You

Luke 17:21 – New Living Translation

“The Kingdom of God can’t be detected by visible signs ... You won’t be able to say, ‘Here it is!’ or ‘It’s over there!’ ... For the Kingdom of God is already among you.”

Let me clarify again a key principle I addressed last week before we proceed ... For simplicity we can categorize disruptions under two categories ... **One** - - - Self-Induced / Self-Imposed collisions which are the natural result of decision making ... These decisions will create personal behavior – which can be positive or negative ... If you pursue a healthy lifestyle – the natural result will be good health ... If you pursue an unhealthy lifestyle – the natural result will be bad health ... This is important to understand so that we do not confuse ourselves with the second category

Two - - - Spirit-Induced collisions which are the supernatural involvement of the Spirit in our life ... We need to be able to clearly recognize when these are occurring – how they occur – and how we are to respond to them.

Awakening Principle

Jesus gives us an astounding principle in Luke 17:21 ... He is basically saying in this text ... Stop looking outwardly or externally for divine collision events ... Stop trying to dissect the event – looking for a spiritual truth or message ... May we be honest here? ... The Christian community at large is always looking at worldly collision events and making spiritual

declaration ... But Jesus is clear – the Kingdom is not detected by visual signs and may I add – events ... The Kingdom is internal ... Jesus is saying focus inwardly – connect with the inner man – to discern the event ... Your understanding or awareness doesn't come from the natural means of dissecting an external event and coming to a logical conclusion ... An awakening comes from an internal revelation of the Spirit concerning the event.

Look – I get it – some of this may sound confusing right now – but hang in there ... See – this natural life is surface and we have been programmed to understand it at a surface level ... This is why Jesus said – stop looking on the surface ... Stop looking for spiritual understanding among the natural ... The Kingdom is within you ... I Am is within you ... Look at what is happening inside of you ... Not simply from a natural – emotional point of view ... But wake-up – give the Spirit your focus and attention – and He will show you what is truly happening from this collision event.

So – what is our main thought from this point? ... Collisions are to be recognized internally – not externally ... But what happens if you don't follow this principle Jesus laid out? ... So now the question is not just recognizing the disruption – but what do you do with the tension it creates?

The Moment You Seek to Fix the Disruption – You will Miss the Intent

Psalm 46:10 Contemporary English Version

Our God says, ... “Calm down, ... and learn that I am God! ... All nations on earth will honor me.”

This is where the tension I spoke about begins to matter ... Because once a collision occurs – once our emotions begin to stir – once our mind starts swirling ... What you do next will determine if you recognize the Spirit's intent – or you completely miss it.

See – our natural response is to fix it – to remove the uncomfortable internal tension ... Our natural inclination is to bring things back to normal as quickly as possible ... Why? ... Because we are wired for comfort ... We are programmed to avoid anything that disrupts our sense of normalcy ... This programming is based in our need to control the events we encounter ... So, when something within us feels off – our first instinct is to correct it – to get back to what feels familiar.

But here is what we must understand ... That tension is not the problem ... That tension is the indicator ... It is revealing that something deeper is taking place within you ... And the moment you try to fix the disruption ... you shut down what it was trying to reveal ... Jesus said you know how to interpret the signs in the sky ... You have learned how to make sense of what you see ... But when it comes to what is happening on the inside – we instinctively just want to fix it ... Why? ... Because instead of remaining present in that tension – we resolve to eliminate it – we desire to restore our sense of normal.

When we succumb to restore our “normal” – we miss the very thing the Spirit desires to awaken us too ... Why? ... Because our focus shifts from to internal tension – to the outward solution ... We engage in fixing it rather than internally discerning it ... Here is the critical truth to grasp ... Awakening only happens in the moment of tension – not in the solution of escaping it ... It is in the tension of the collision – that revelation will flow ... It is when the physical peace is disrupted – the spiritual peace that passes all understanding occurs.

So – the question now becomes ... When the tension of the disruption arises to a fevered pitch – will you try to fix it? ... Or will you be still and know He is Your God – doing His perfect work within you?

Takeaway

So let me leave you with this ... This week – when something interrupts your normal ... When that disruption begins to stir within you ... When that internal tension rises to a very

uncomfortable level ... Remind yourself of these basic concepts ... Don't seek it immediately
fix it ... Don't desire to make it go away.

Instead ... Pause ... Be still ... Turn inward and focus on the discomfort and tension ... Train
yourself to recognize that this is how the Spirit gets your attention ... If this is as far as you can
get right now in the process – it is a win ... You have learned with the intent to retrain your
mindset that the internal tension is not something to avoid but to embrace