

MISSING THE DAY OF YOUR VISITATION – ABC(L41)

QUESTION

DISCUSS THE HINDRANCES TO DISCERNING GOD, HIS MOVEMENTS AND HIS METHODS.

MISSING THE DAY OF YOUR VISITATION – ANSWERS- ABC (L41)

Mark 16:12

After that, He appeared in another form to two of them as they walked and went into the country. (NKJ)

form – morphe – external appearance.

Jesus appeared in different forms:

Baby in a manger

Child in the temple

Suffering servant

Resurrected Lord

Ascended Lord.

God's ways are not our ways. Must know his ways and character to recognise him.

Those who recognise him have migrated to the highest form of discerning. They have overcome a multitude of natural limitations.

His deity was hidden from the Pilates, Herods and Scribes of the day.

Even the moves of God comes in different forms. Can you see God in the different moves in history?

There are hindrances(limitations) that prevent folk from discerning genuine moves of God. These hindrances prevent revelation of Him.

Prov 29:18

Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but happy is he who keeps the law.(NKJ)

Where there is no vision (sight)of him – people perish.

The prevailing mentalities during his incarnation and ministry that prevented many from recognising Jesus then are the same today.

If you know his attributes, when he changes his appearance you will recognise him easily. If you see him in the manger you will see humility instead of poverty.

HINDRANCES TO DISCERNING GOD AND HIS MOVEMENTS

BUSINESS INDULGENCE (missed the baby)

Luke 2:7

And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.(NKJ)

The innkeeper's business indulgence prevented him from recognising Jesus.

He missed the baby.

There are some whose busy-ness prevents them from seeing what God is doing now. They miss the

seasons and times of God. Money is a powerful distraction. The love of money is the root of all evil. Compare the power of money to prayer.

The tribe of Dan was busy in the shipping business – they missed their visitation.

We need money to live, but money must not be allowed to dampen our watchfulness.

BUSY – BUSY UNDER SATAN’S YOKE.

The scriptures urge us to be watchful.

Luke 21:36

"Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."(NKJ)

1Thes 5:6

Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.(NKJ)

Rev 3:3

"Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. (NKJ)

Mark 14:38

"Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit truly is willing, but the flesh is weak."(NKJ)

(watch – to be sleepless, keep awake, circumspect, to be attentive, to be ready)

THERE WERE THOSE WHO DEDICATED THEMSELVES TO WATCH.

Luke 2:25

And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

(NKJ)

Luke 2:36-38

36 Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity;

37 and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

38 And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

(NKJ)

POSITION -CENTREDNESS (missed the baby)

Herod’s position prevented him from seeing Jesus. His position was challenged. Herod perceived this as competition. He was troubled. He wanted to protect his position. Those who cling to positional authority will miss divine visitations.

Many joined Jeroboam because of positions offered.

They missed the true temple and true God at Jerusalem.

Ambition and human affirmation can prevent you from seeing God.

Consider Isaiah 6 – THE ANGELS HAD THEIR FACE AND FEET COVERED SO AS TO KEEP ATTENTION ON HIM SEATED ON THE THRONE.

Jesus was not position centred – He made himself of no reputation.

Matt 2:1-8

1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men

from the East came to Jerusalem,

2 saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

5 So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

6 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you shall come a Ruler who will shepherd My people Israel.' "

7 Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared.

8 And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."(NKJ)

Matt 2:16

Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.(NKJ)

Position centredness can motivate you to attempt to kill a move of God.

CROWD MENTALITY (missed the baby)

All Jerusalem was troubled because they were under the influence of Herod.

3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

Jerusalem thought like Herod. They were more influenced by Herod than by God.

It is the same crowd mentality that later chooses Barabbas.

The world is a crowd under the influence of Satan.

I Jn 5:19

We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.
(NKJ)

Phil 2:12

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

(NKJ)

If you think like the crowd, you will miss God.

DROPSY – PICTURE OF THEORETICAL BONDAGE (missing the baby)

The chief priests and the scribes knew the answers but could not live the answers.

3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

Acts 13:27

27 "For those who dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they did not know Him, nor even the voices of the Prophets which are read every Sabbath, have fulfilled them in condemning Him.

There are many folk that cannot translate theoretical knowledge into practice.

2 Tim 3:7

always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

(NKJ)

THEY KNOW THE TRUTH BUT CANNOT COME TO THE TRUTH.

These are folk that are not born again.

They cannot see spiritual things.

John 3:3

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."(NKJ)

1 Cor 2:14

14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

(NKJ)

UNBELIEF (missing his death)

Matt 27:39-43

39 And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads

40 and saying, "You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

41 Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said,

42 "He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him.

43 "He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.'"(NKJ)

John 20:24-29

24 Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

25 The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

26 And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!"

27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."

28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."(NKJ)

Faith is greater than sight.

Heb 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.(NKJ)

The end result of unbelief is a disastrous miss – missing a move of God.

II Ki 7:2

2 So an officer on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God and said, "Look, if the LORD would make windows in heaven, could this thing be?" And he said, "In fact, you shall see it with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it."

(NKJ)

II Ki 7:17-20

17 Now the king had appointed the officer on whose hand he leaned to have charge of the gate. But the people trampled him in the gate, and he died, just as the man of God had said, who spoke when the king came down to him.

18 So it happened just as the man of God had spoken to the king, saying, "Two seahs of barley for a shekel, and a seah of fine flour for a shekel, shall be sold tomorrow about this time in the gate of Samaria."

19 Then that officer had answered the man of God, and said, "Now look, if the LORD would make windows in heaven, could such a thing be?" And he had said, "In fact, you shall see it with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it."

20 And so it happened to him, for the people trampled him in the gate, and he died.

(NKJ)

FAMILIARITY (missing his ministry)

Man associates intimacy with weakness. It is macho to be aloof and distant – not to associate with the common man.

Matt 13:54-58

54 And when He had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, "Where did this Man get this wisdom and these mighty works?"

55 "Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas?"

56 "And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this Man get all these things?"

57 So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house."

58 Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.(NKJ)

The people missed God because they associated His poor human ties with weakness, incompetence, and frailty – how could a carpenter's son be God?

Instead of appreciating the association, they despised it, because of their own private notions of God.

Familiarity refers to commonness, ordinary.

To the human eye He was not packaged well.

Rejection of simplicity is the pride of man.

The thing that proved his humility was his intimacy. They used his humility to undermine and discredit him.

APATHY(missing Him)

THIS IS THE SIN OF A PASSIONLESS LIFE.

GOD WILL NOT REVEAL HIMSELF TO THOSE WHO DO NOT LOVE HIM.

John 14:21

21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."
(NKJ)

Luke 7:40-50

40 And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he said, "Teacher, say it."

41 "There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty.

42 "And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?"

43 Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have rightly judged."

44 Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head.

45 "You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in.

46 "You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil.

47 "Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little."

48 And He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

49 And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

50 Then He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

(NKJ)

She received forgiveness of sins , and revelation of faith.

DULLNESS

1 Sam 3:3-9

3 and before the lamp of God went out in the tabernacle of the LORD where the ark of God was, and while Samuel was lying down,

4 that the LORD called Samuel. And he answered, "Here I am!"

5 So he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." And he said, "I did not call; lie down again." And he went and lay down.

6 And the LORD called yet again, "Samuel!" So Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." And he answered, "I did not call, my son; lie down again."

7 (Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, nor was the word of the LORD yet revealed to him.)

8 And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. Then he arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you did call me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD had called the boy.

9 Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, 'Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

(NKJ)

Eli missed God's visitation. He had to hear from Samuel.

REBELLION(missing the ascended Christ)

Acts 7:51-58

51 "You stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your

fathers did, so do you.

52 "Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers,

53 "who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it."

54 When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth.

55 But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God,

56 and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"

57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord;

58 and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.(NKJ)

MANIFESTATION

IKing 19:11-13

11 Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake;

12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

13 So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"(NKJ)

ARE YOU LOOKING OR ARE YOU HEARING?
IN THIS MOVE OF GOD, YOU NEED TO HEAR.

Rev 3:13

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

(NKJ)

John 21:4-12

4 But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

5 Then Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any food?" They answered Him, "No."

6 And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.

7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea.

8 But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish.

9 Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread.

10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught."

11 Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken.

12 Jesus said to them, "Come and eat breakfast." Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?"-- knowing that it was the Lord.(NKJ)

SOVEREIGN

GOD CAN HIDE HIMSELF FROM YOU.

Rom 11:7-10

7 What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded.

8 Just as it is written: "God has given them a spirit of stupor, eyes that they should not see and ears that they should not hear, to this very day."

9 And David says: "Let their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a recompense to them.

10 Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see, and bow down their back always."(NKJ)

Rom 11:25

25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

(NKJ)

Luke 24:16-17

16 But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him.

17 And He said to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?"

(NKJ)

Isa 29:10-13

10 For the LORD has poured out on you the spirit of deep sleep, and has closed your eyes, namely, the prophets; and He has covered your heads, namely, the seers.

11 The whole vision has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one who is literate, saying, "Read this, please." And he says, "I cannot, for it is sealed."

12 Then the book is delivered to one who is illiterate, saying, "Read this, please." And he says, "I am not literate."

13 Therefore the LORD said: "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men,(NKJ)

Acts 9:1-8

1 Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest

2 and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

3 And as he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven.

4 Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

5 And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" And the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads."

6 So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" And the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

7 And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one.

8 Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led

him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.(NKJ)

BUREAUCRACY(missing the voice)

Luke 3:1-3

1 Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene,

2 while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.

3 And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins,(NKJ)

EMOTIONALISM(missing the resurrection)

John 20:11-16

11 But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb.

12 And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

13 Then they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him."

14 Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus.

15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away."

16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher).
(NKJ)

STUPIDITY(FOOLISHNESS)

Ps 53:1

The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, and have done abominable iniquity; there is none who does good.(NKJ)

Prov 12:15

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise.
(NKJ)

Prov 18:2

A fool has no delight in understanding, but in expressing his own heart.
(NKJ)

Prov 28:26

He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but whoever walks wisely will be delivered.
(NKJ)

Eccl 2:14

The wise man's eyes are in his head, but the fool walks in darkness. Yet I myself perceived that the same event happens to them all.(NKJ)

HINDRANCES TO DISCERNING(summary)

STUPIDITY(FOOLISHNESS)
THROUGH MENTALITY(CROWD)
UNBELIEF
POSITION CENTREDNESS
INDUSTRY(BUSY)
DROPSY(THEORETICAL BONDAGE)
FAMILIARITY
APATHY AND DULLNESS
REBELLION
MANIFESTATION FOCUS
EMOTIONALISM
RED TAPE(BUREAUCRACY)
SOVEREIGN

Luke 19:41-47

41 Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it,
42 saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.
43 "For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side,
44 "and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."
45 Then He went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in it,
46 saying to them, "It is written, 'My house is a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'"
47 And He was teaching daily in the temple. But the chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people sought to destroy Him,(NKJ)

Luke 1:78

78 Through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us;
(NKJ)

Don't let God weep over you.

How is he visiting the church now?

What form is He taking?

HE IS NOW SPEAKING IN THE STILL SMALL VOICE.

AS MANY AS ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT – THEY ARE THE SONS OF GOD.