

Wil Owens
A Christian View of COVID 19; Luke 21:10-13
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Introduction – Imagine the impact of a tiny organism called the coronavirus! A virus itself is a microscopic organism that only survives inside a host organism. So not only is the coronavirus microscopic, it is dependent and yet has managed to transform the world in a matter of weeks.

Things have changed in a rapid pace to combat this virus. Events are being cancelled. Travel is disrupted. Quarantines have been established. Shelves have emptied of sanitizer and bathroom tissue. Schools have closed. Governors have requested large gatherings be discontinued. Nursing homes are closed to visitors. Our economy is shaken. It is officially now called a pandemic and a national emergency. Just one month ago, everything was business as usual. Today we don't even shake hands.

As believers, how are we to think biblically about what is going on around us? And, how are we to respond biblically to what is going on around us? We face uneasy days in the same way we are to face days of ease – with faith, guided by the Word of God.

- I. What We Can Learn from the Coronavirus
 - a. First, even though this outbreak is unsettling, we know it's not surprising.
 - i. Reflecting back on the text we just read – as believers we know we are to expect these things to arise with increasing frequency the closer we come to the Lord's return.
 - ii. Pestilences will increase along with other natural disasters and global conflicts and persecution of believers.
 - iii. If there is only one thing this global pandemic teaches us it is this: the Bible is true and trustworthy. The Bible told us of these things long before they were breaking news!
 - iv. Some people read the Bible and think the prophecies are preposterous. Things like that could never happen, especially in our modern, technically advanced world. And ever so often

something like a microscopic organism shows up and reminds us that God's Word is true.

- b. Second, COVID 19 reminds us of the biblical truth that all of life and even life itself is very fragile.
 - i. Again, everything has been touched by this virus. It has affected our plans, our travel, our economy, our social gatherings, our attention to hygiene, our educational system, our entertainment, our comfort, our hobbies – we have been forced to make adjustments to the way we live.
 - ii. But it's not only the way we live life that has been affected, it is our life that has been affected. Worldwide there have been 137,445 cases and 5088 deaths reported. That's what has been reported and those numbers were from yesterday.
 - iii. But what COVID 19 tells us about the fragility of life, the Bible has told us from the beginning.
 - iv. Prov 19:21 – Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.
 - v. James 4:14 – you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.
- c. Third, COVID 19 reminds us of the biblical truth that God is in control.
 - i. The mind of mankind constantly promotes the false notion that we are in control of our future and destiny. If we have enough power, money, clout, education, technology, or determination we can do anything. And then a little virus comes along and reminds us that nations are not in control of this world. Politics do not control this world. Self-determination does not control this world. God does.
 - ii. Whether this virus arose from negligence, ignorance, natural environment, or malicious intent, it doesn't make a single advance apart from the permissive hand of our sovereign God.
 - iii. Col 1:16-17 – For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

- iv. When the Bible says He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together, that includes COVID 19. God remains in control no matter what the outbreak may be.
- d. Fourth, COVID 19 reminds us of the biblical truth that our hope is in the Lord.
 - i. No matter how devastating, deathly, widespread, or fearful the coronavirus may be – God is greater! When God’s purposes for the coronavirus come to an end, so will it.
 - ii. Treasure Verse – Psalm 46:1 – God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
 - iii. Treasure Verse – Psalm 46:10 – Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!
- e. Fifth, COVID 19 may just help us gain some wisdom on how we are approaching life.
 - i. Things like COVID 19 give us the opportunity to get our lives back in perspective and priority.
 - ii. What are we going to do now that our plans are being cancelled, our trips are being delayed, our events are being postponed. Why we don’t know what to do if we can’t constantly be on the go!
 - iii. Maybe the coronavirus is teaching us that our comfort and our entertainment really was out of proportion to our faith. We actually have more time than we realized. We had just filled every second of our day with fun and left little to nothing for faith.
 - iv. We actually do have time to read the Bible and pray every day. We actually do have time to treasure the Word of God in our hearts. We actually do have time to serve someone else, to have someone over for dinner and share the gospel. We actually do have time to live out our faith, we just haven’t been making time to do so.
 - v. In our relentless quest to go somewhere and do something and sign our kids up for every event possible, we try to fit our faith somewhere in the leftover space. Maybe the coronavirus will help us put our faith back in the center so that our extracurricular activities flow from our faith rather than our

faith trying to find a spot somewhere in all our extracurricular activities.

II. How We Can Respond to the Coronavirus

- a. We turn to the Word as our primary source, not the news. You can listen to the morning news for about 10 minutes and learn every update you need to be aware of. But then we need to turn off the TV, put down the phone, and open the Bible.
 - i. Psalm 46:11 – The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.
- b. Love Our Neighbor – if we will just take the time to listen and look around, COVID 19 is not the only widespread outbreak that will occur, but there will also be a widespread outbreak of God’s people loving our neighbors. That could be anything from making sure someone in your community has the supplies or attention they need to offering a fearful heart the hope of the gospel.
- c. We can face this virus with faith instead of fear. If God is God, there’s no need to panic or be frantic or be fearful. We walk by faith in His sovereign, wise, good, and faithful providence over our lives, not by fear of a microscopic virus.
 - i. We walk by faith and not by foolishness. We use the common sense and wisdom that God has given us. We wash our hands. We don’t shake hands. We stay at home if we’re not well. We take the advice of our healthcare and government officials. We do our part, but not because we are afraid, rather because we love our neighbor.
- d. We face this virus with prayer rather than panic. We confront COVID 19 with more than sanitizer and alcohol; we confront it with prayer. We know God is in control. We know our hope is in the Lord. We know God is greater. So we pray. We pray for those infected. We pray for those working for a cure. We pray for one another. We pray that doors will open for the gospel. We pray people will turn to the Lord. We pray. James 5:17 says Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for 3 years and six months it did not rain on the earth!
- e. We rest in the promises of our God.

- i. Romans 8:38-39 – For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord!

Conclusion – Luke 21:13 – This will be your opportunity to bear witness.