

We Icky, Fickle Christians
(Subtitle-It depends on the weather/whether...)
Text-Luke 21: 34-36
(Luke 21, Matthew 24)

QUESTION	MY ANSWER
What is atheism? How do you know someone is an atheist?	
What is practical atheism?	
Under what circumstances would I (do I) renounce my faith/reliance in/on Jesus?	
What do I believe are Yahweh/Jesus' limits for the world? For me personally?	
In which situations do I NOT trust Yahweh/Jesus?	
Why don't I thoroughly trust Him in these and other situations?	
Are there consequences to my lack of trusting Jesus?	

DISCOVERY-Let's Take a look at some popular Christian sayings

- God helps those who help themselves
- Cleanliness is next to godliness
- God moves in mysterious ways
- God will not give you more than you can handle

Some Christian posts on various social media sites

- ✓ "Is it ok if we can practice social distancing? We don't want to look like weirdos."
- ✓ "How do you know what I do and do not know concerning my rights? You stick to your beliefs and let everyone else stick to theirs!"
- ✓ "I can't imagine going out without all my protection. Feels much safer than not wearing it."
- ✓ "I don't care who thinks what of me-I've had a lot of POSITIVE comments. That's what counts."

Consider these passages and their applications:

- Luke 21: 7-See that you are not led astray
- Luke 21: 9-And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified
- Luke 21: 13-This will be your opportunity to bear witness

We Icky, Fickle Christians
(Subtitle-It depends on the weather/whether...)
Text-Luke 21: 34-36
(Luke 21, Matthew 24)

QUESTION	MY ANSWER
What is atheism? How do you know someone is an atheist?	The denial of Yahweh God’s existence. Typically, it’s a statement that they make. A position that they assume in debates. A stance adopted when the topic of religion is presented.
What is practical atheism?	Living, operating, conducting oneself as if there is no God without ever making the statement. For all purposes, no one observing you will believe you believe in Yahweh God/Jesus.
Under what circumstances would I (do I) renounce my faith/reliance in/on Jesus?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family issues • Financial matters • Medical/health/illness/death • Socialization/dating • Leisure/activities that I like to do • Politics • Religion • Legal consequences • World crisis
What do I believe are Yahweh/Jesus’ limits for the world? For me personally?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The world is too evil and too selfish • He hasn’t shown up at all • He doesn’t really care • My stuff is too trivial • I’m not a “good enough” Christian
In which situations do I NOT trust Yahweh/Jesus?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family issues • Financial matters • Medical/health/illness/death • Socialization/dating • Leisure/activities that I like to do • Politics • Religion • Legal • World crisis
Why don’t I thoroughly trust Him in these and other situations?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don’t pray enough/correctly/at all • He hasn’t shown up at all • He doesn’t really care • My stuff is too trivial • I’m not a “good enough” Christian
Are there consequences to my lack of trusting Jesus?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I become self-centered and self-dependent • I remain/become a Christian infant • My fear factor increases • I struggle with cultural norms vs. Jesus truths • Social acceptance and adaptation become more important than standing for/with Jesus

DISCOVERY-Let's Take a look at some popular Christian sayings

- God helps those who help themselves
- Cleanliness is next to godliness
- God moves in mysterious ways
- God will not give you more than you can handle

Some Christian posts on various social media sites

- ✓ "Is it ok if we can practice social distancing? We don't want to look like weirdos."
- ✓ "How do you know what I do and do not know concerning my rights? You stick to your beliefs and let everyone else stick to theirs!"
- ✓ "I can't imagine going out without all my protection. Feels much safer than not wearing it."
- ✓ "I don't care who thinks what of me-I've had a lot of POSITIVE comments. That's what counts."

Consider these passages and their applications:

- Luke 21: 7-See that you are not led astray
 - ✓ Because something is the law, that doesn't make it right or truth, just legal-abortion, homosexual marriage, transgenderism
 - ✓ Making something "normal" desensitizes your aversion to it-profanity, pornography, recreational drug usage, "white" lies, pre-marital co-habitation, unmarried pregnancy
 - ✓ People are like "sheeple." We'd rather not stand out from the crowd or the culture. It's easier to do what everyone else is doing or what is popular-"Let's just go along to get along." Polycarp, Malcolm X, MLK,
- Luke 21: 9-And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified
 - ✓ Even Jesus' apostles pre-Pentecost were scaredy-cats. After Pentecost, not so much
 - ✓ Many earthly generations have been exposed to fear mongering-the Black Plague, Hitler, WWI, Ivan the Terrible, Hurricane Katrina, the perpetual Middle East predicament, Genghis Kahn, Gulf Wars, WW2
 - ✓ John 21: 5-Shalom, Peace, what the Sabbath should mean to Believers
- Luke 21: 13-This will be your opportunity to bear witness
 - ✓ Have a response that invites/extends the conversation
 - ✓ Be intentional and make the time investment
 - ✓ Do NOT focus on you, yourself and your predicament unless asked and be brief about you
 - ✓ Use/paraphrase what Jesus said or did to impact the interaction
 - ✓ Offer to pray with/for the other party-immediate and aloud, if permitted
 - ✓ When you "buck the trend" you're going to look like you're hanging out there by yourself
 - ✓ Jesus explains that persecution and even death WILL happen to those that are his Believers
 - ✓ Build up "spiritual muscle" now for the time of later standing and guts
- Some solutions
 - ✓ Be a motivated learner of Yahweh God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit-understand their natures
 - ✓ Develop an appetite for knowing the Scriptures-rightly dividing the word of truth
 - ✓ Spend dedicated time with others of like mind and spirit
 - ✓ Regularly converse with Yahweh, Jesus, the Holy Spirit
 - ✓ Practice telling others (and discussing) about Jesus using the Bible
- The end result
 - ✓ 2 Timothy 1:7-Yahweh God instills in us: courage, power, wanting what's best for others and self-discipline.
 - ✓ Acts 2: 42-47-The world is changed because Jesus' people are in it, unified, focused, prayerful, learning, playful, ready to communicate the Good News to all.
 - ✓ "Get busy living or stay busy dying!"