



The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and tested him by asking him to show them a sign from heaven. He replied, "When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a miraculous sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah." Jesus then left them and went away.

Sunlight enters the Earth's atmosphere and is slowly scattered by particulates and water molecules, which separate it into the colors of the rainbow. Blue light scatters the easiest, so it is the first to separate. This is why our daytime skies are blue! Red light resists scattering, so only separates after a long journey through the Earth's atmosphere. Sunsets are red when there is a lot of the Earth's atmosphere between the sun and our eyes, such as when there are clear skies to the west as the sun is setting. Since in the mid latitudes we get most of our weather from the west, red sunsets are a good indication that tomorrow's weather will be fair. However, if the sunrise is red, it often means the fair weather has already passed into the east and the stormy weather to the west is on its way!

Just as we use signs in the sky to interpret the weather, we can use signs in our lives to interpret the times. What are the signs of the times in your life? Are you missing opportunities to learn life lessons from a wise member of your church family? Are there people in your life who are begging for your attention without words? Has your heart been quiet enough to recognize sin that is straining your marriage or hurting those around you? Jesus encourages us to be attentive to the spiritual signs around us, properly interpret them, and then act! More than the fair weather the red sunset announces is the reminder it contains to be spiritually aware.

May you be reminded to act on the spiritual signs around you with every sunset you see!

Photo: Sunset; Eden Prairie, Minnesota

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