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Happy Spring to you!

I am really enjoying the flowers this April. The blossoming trees are in their glory now. Growing up I always heard the saying; April showers bring May flowers but, here in Western Washington, this spring, it's more accurately; March rain brings April blossoms. It's Not very poetic but more factual. When I was young I also remember hearing; Red sun in the morning sailors takes warning, red sun at night sailor's delight. In Matthew 16:1-4 Jesus responds to the religious leader's demand for a sign in the heavens with a variation of this saying. His question to them is still appropriate for today. He asked "Do you know how to discern the changes of the weather but, cannot discern the signs of the times? I believe the signs of the times He is referring to were the works He was doing which they refused to accept as from God. He had fed thousands and healed the incurable but that was not enough for them. Warning His disciple to beware of these leaders faithless religion the disciples misunderstood what He meant. They thought He meant that they had forgotten to bring any lunch with them. What He said was "beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." In this context He is also warning us to be careful of the sin that can creep into our lives when we are living religiously and not abiding in His presence.

Because the Galatians were struggling with the same problem found in Matthew 16, Paul encourages them to "Walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh" (5:16)

They trusted in their works for God to make them righteous and not in God's almighty provision to make us holy. We can fall into the same trap of being so focused on outward signs, such as our behavior or that of others that we miss what God is so clearly teaching in His word. True Christianity is not only about keeping the rules in the Bible by our own efforts, but by having a growing relationship with God. It's the only way we can live a righteous life.

Richard

*Christ is Life
The rest are
Details!*

