



“When We Do Not Understand”

By Dr. Charles “Chic” Shaver

“Why were you searching for me?” he [Jesus] asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man. (Luke 2:49-52)

One of the godliest women in the history of the world was Mary, mother of Jesus. “An angel went to her and said, ‘Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.’”

At Mary’s troubled heart, the angel continued, “Do not be afraid, Mary. You have favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord will give him the throne of his father David... his kingdom will never end.

And further, “the Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God” (Luke 1:28-35).

When Jesus was twelve, the family journeyed to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. As extended family member headed home, Jesus’ parents realized Jesus was not among them. They returned to Jerusalem, found Jesus, and questioned his actions listening to the temple teachers. He replied that he had to be in his Father’s house, but they did not understand.

Despite all God's angel had so clearly announced to Mary, at this stage of Jesus' maturing life, they did not understand. Yes, it is possible that there are issues the godly do not understand.

At this stage of history in our world (2020) I am asking, "Why the coronavirus?"

- Is it because meat or fish was provided in unsanitary conditions in a Chinese market? Once into humans, the virus spread to other humans.
- Is it simply because the world's pattern includes periodic major diseases like SARS, Ebola, HIV?
- Is it a judgment from God on disobedient people? The grumbling, disobedient Israelites in the wilderness angered the Lord, "and he struck them with a severe plague" (Numbers 11:43).
- Is it simply because we live in a damaged, off-balanced world ever since sin entered the human race? Even so, we live in the hope "that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God." And more, "we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies" (Romans 8:21, 23).
- I don't know, I don't understand, but I have been praying God will use this tragic series of events to draw people to Himself – Savior, Forgiver, Healer, the Lord.

I do know millions of people have pulled away from other people, some in self-imposed quarantine, to stop human transmission of the disease. What do people do, who normally are very busy in work, school, sporting events, entertainment, shopping when most everything stops? When they sit at home day after day, what is going through their minds? What are they thinking about? Is it possible that God might be getting their attention?