

We were having many discussions at my ladies Bible study this past Tuesday, and we were questioning ourselves on how hard it can be to step out of our comfort zone when it comes to being a Christian. Yes, we are to help those in need, and we even thought of a few ways we could extend care and thoughtfulness to others. Wonderful. We shared how each of us have family members that we pray would build a relationship with Jesus, to know his love and grace firsthand.

We started talking about the tragic shooting that had just taken place at a Christian school in our neighboring city in Nashville, where six innocent lives were snuffed out without reason. Many of us shared our grief, our anger and disbelief. Some of the ladies at my table knew the victims personally. As Christians, we all lost brothers and sisters that day. We ladies found ourselves praying for the family of the woman who carried out this horrific act, knowing how cruel the world can be.

We started to discuss what might possess a person to carry out an act like this. Earlier that day I had shared with my grandsons that these acts used to be automatically considered insane or may even have been explained as a result of demonic possession. In today's obsession with political correctness and how anything we say may be considered offensive, we can no longer call these actions demonic because **then we would have to acknowledge the existence of holiness, being God.** Some groups of people are actually defending this woman's actions because of her proclamation of being transgender and misunderstood. Her actions were demonic and evil, period.

The term 'mental illness' is used as a verbal band-aid for the evil and demonic presence we don't really want to talk about as a society. As one who suffers from depression, who has a child with autism, and another child diagnosed with personality disorders, I know mental illness is real, and should not be taken lightly. But to encompass the truly heinous acts into that same group doesn't make sense. Acts like these are pure evil, and there is no sugar-coating that reality.

If you know me well, you will often hear me say that this world is not my home. My heart breaks when I see the atrocities we humans are capable of, not to mention considering the disgusting things God sees that we don't! I don't want to see what God sees...I don't think I could take it. It was apparent to our group that we need to be better about sharing Jesus with the world. He is the only cure for the craziness all around us. Jesus' return must be coming soon, as we see pure evil in this world growing bolder and brazen right before our eyes.

In the beautiful depictions of Jesus calling the disciples to 'follow him' as seen in *The Chosen* series, it made me wonder if we are truly serious in our own calling. If Jesus were to appear to me in person, look me in the eyes and say, "Lisa, follow me," could I really do it? Could I pack up my grandsons to come with me because Grandma is leaving to follow Jesus? What if they didn't want to come with me? Could I leave them and the comfort of my home and step out into the unknown? Such a tough question, but I pray I would do so willingly.



Jesus told us to watch and wait, because his return will come like a thief in the night. Now is the time to be ready, my dear friends. Get your household in order and prepare for his coming. The signs tell us his return is very soon. What will your answer be when our Lord comes and says to you, "Follow me"?

Matthew 24:36-44 (NIV)

"But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying, and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. Therefore keep watch because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

Blessings,

Lisa Jo