**What is Going On?**

**Discernment**

**Teens**

**Level 4 Lesson 28**

* **Introduction**

Have you ever known someone that can’t tell if someone is mad? Usually they have some sort of disability if they cannot read people’s body language. God created us to be able to communicate, not only verbally, but with body language. We really have a disability when we cannot discern spiritual things.

* **Lesson**

*Mat 16:3  And in the morning, It will be foul weather today: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?*

**Discernment** is *the ability to perceive, understand, and judge things clearly*, especially those that are not obvious or straightforward.

***:*** *to* [*detect*](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/detect) *with the eyes*

***:*** *to detect with senses other than vision*

***:*** *to* [*recognize*](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/recognize) *or identify as separate and* [*distinct*](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/distinct)***:*** [*discriminate*](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/discriminate)

*discern right from wrong*

***:*** *to come to know or recognize mentally*

**discernment**

the ability to judge well.

(in Christian contexts) perception in the absence of judgment with a view to obtaining spiritual guidance and understanding.

A discerning person is **someone who demonstrates good judgment, perception, and insight**. They are able to make wise and well-informed decisions, often by carefully considering and evaluating different options or perspectives.

Jesus is reprimanding the people because they can tell what the weather is going to do by looking at the sky, but they cannot figure out from the signs of what is going on in our world that the Lord is coming back. He calls them hypocrites!

**Hypocrite-**someone who says they have [particular](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/particular) [moral](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/moral) or religious [beliefs](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/belief) but [behaves](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/behave) in a way that [shows](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/show) these are not [sincere](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/sincere), a faker.

It is extremely important to the Lord that we are able to use discernment. Discernment can be a learned behavior if one cares to learn. That caring to learn is discernment itself.

We need to pay attention! Search the Scriptures to see what to look for. Seek the Lord’s face to see what He wants. If we truly care, we can learn to discern.

*Eze\_44:23 And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.*

Solomon was the wisest man on earth. He was humble. He knew he did not have what it took to be king. So he asked God for wisdom and understanding. God was so thrilled with his attitude that He not only gave him abundant wisdom and understanding, but He also gave him an abundance of riches and honor.

*Ki 3:6  And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.*

*1Ki 3:7  And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.*

*1Ki 3:8  And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude.*

*1Ki 3:9  Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?*

*1Ki 3:10  And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.*

*1Ki 3:11  And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment;*

*1Ki 3:12  Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.*

*1Ki 3:13  And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.*

So we can see from the scriptures that we can learn discernment, and we can be given, by God, discernment.

Discernment is a great benefit in living for God. But it is a great benefit in just everyday life. Have you ever been around someone who doesn’t have a clue what is going on around them? This kind of person is extremely vulnerable. Vulnerable means-*susceptible to physical or emotional attack or harm*.

It would be a great idea to work on our physical discernment, so we then can work on our spiritual discernment.

* **Activity**

Do you know where your parents work?

Do you know their phone number by heart?

Can you tell if they are upset?

Can you tell if they are happy?

Do you know your grandma’s birthday?

Who sits by you in math class?

Do you know (feel) when it is time for church without looking at the clock?

If you have ever Bible quizzed, do you know when you are about to run out of time?

Do you know when you need to run from your sibling!!!?

Who is sitting by you now? Did you have to look? 😊

Can you tell your pastor’s mood during a service? I probably just lost some of you. Do you realize that your pastor’s mood is a signal of how the service might go?

This is a wonderful time to brainstorm some ideas of things to “pay attention to.”

Then, in this next week everyone work on the list. Come back next week and report to the class what we have discovered about ourselves.

Remember, PAY ATTENTION