"IF ONLY I HAD KNOWN"

INTRO: It has been said that hindsight is always 20/20. The history of the world would be vastly different if folks could always foresee the consequences of their actions. Perhaps each of us have experienced the emotions & felt the misery of expressing the words, "If only I had known..."

   A. Why all the fuss about a little piece of fruit?
   B. Clothed selves with fig leaves. Still "naked."
   C. Consequences of their sin, vs. 8, 16-19.
   D. "If only we had known..." But they DID KNOW what God said, & they didn't do it.

II. THE GENERATION OF NOAH, Gen. 6-9.
   A. Noah preached righteousness while he built the ark,
   B. Other folks went on their way, eating, drinking, marrying, giving in marriage, etc.  MT 24:38-39.
   C. When the door was shut, when the rain started, "Oh, if we had only known..." But they COULD have known. They were forewarned.

III. JESUS' GENERATION.
   A. If they had known the Scriptures they would not have opposed Jesus.

      [When they wrongly accused His disciples of violating the Sabbath:] If you had known what this means, "I desire mercy & not sacrifice" [Hos 6:6], you would not have condemned the guiltless.  (MT 12:7).

   B. If they had known that He was the Messiah, the Son of God, they would not have rejected Him.

      [The Pharisees] said to Him, "Where is your father?"
Jesus answered, "You know neither Me nor My Father. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also" (JN 8:19).

C. If the people of Jerusalem had known the serious consequences, they would not have rejected Him nor the prophets who had come before Him, Luke 19:42-44.

D. If the Jewish & Roman rulers of the first century had known the true identity of Jesus they would not have crucified Him. READ I CORINTHIANS 2:7-8. Luke 23:34

IV. THE WORLD TODAY. READ MATTHEW 24:35-44. READ LUKE 12:35-40.

A. We cannot know WHEN He is coming, but we can know THAT He is coming.

B. We can KNOW how to be ready. MK 16:15-16; Acts 2:38-41

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