

January 31, 2021

# Scott's Thoughts



*“There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?””*  
(1 Kings 19:9, ESV)

“Open for Business”

- It seems odd to me that my sisters and their families live a different life than we do here in Oklahoma. My sisters live in Illinois and I try to keep up with what is going on in their lives. Sometimes it is hard to know what is going on because the circumstances of our lives are very different. Illinois has, over the last year, been much more restrictive than Oklahoma. Recently one of my sisters and her husband drove about thirty miles to Missouri to eat out. The area they live in is loaded with good restaurants. However, all restaurants that are open in their area are carry-out only. Who wants to pay that kind of money for something then eat in the car or take it home to reheat it before eating? So, they went to a nice dine-in restaurant in St. Louis and in the process drove by numerous wonderful places to eat that weren't open. They were closed because of fear.

Fear has gripped our world to a greater degree than at any other time in my life. We are afraid of something that we all recognize in pictures yet, we are afraid of it because we can't see it with unaided vision. Wouldn't it be a different battle if we could see this virus in the air?

recklessness or calculated caution? We hear a lot about Science and our responsibility to follow the guidelines for suspension that were put forth by the different health organizations. We did suspend some of our services in 2020. Why? At first it was because of the pandemic. Now, I'm asking myself if that is still the reason? We did comply with the Governor's initial order. Then we, over a period of weeks, went back to our full schedule. In November, we cut back again because of the rapid rise in the number of new cases in Oklahoma. Yet, I still go to the bakery most mornings. Ava and I both go to the grocery store when we need something. Most weeks we also go out to eat at least once.

Am I hiding in a cave? This is the question I ask myself. Is it time to open for business more than just take-out? It is the same question all of us must answer. Wearing a mask yes, social distancing yes, and hand washing yes are good, proper, and necessary, but even greater importance is having a full trust and reliance on God.

*“and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God?”* (Joel 2:13–14, ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining.

—Scott

Are we being driven by fear or caution? Is it