

Luke 11:14-36

Verses 14-16:

--And He was casting out a demon, and it was mute. So it was, when the demon had gone out, that the mute spoke; and the multitudes marveled. But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."

Others testing Him, sought from Him a sign from heaven.

--(14) Luke records another miracle that leads to instruction. Jesus casts a demon out of a man who was muted by the evil spirit. When the demon was gone, the man once again spoke, and everyone marveled. Supernatural power was evident.

--(15) **But some of them.** . . we find out from the other gospels this is primarily the religious leaders (**Mt. 9:34; 12:24; Mk. 3:22**), both Pharisees and scribes come down from Jerusalem.

--They claim Jesus is casting out demons by the power of **Beelzebub**, which was a name derived from *Baal-Zebub*, Ekron's god of flies (**2 Kings 1:3**). We know they are referring to Satan, as the context makes clear.

--They are claiming Jesus is possessed by the prince devil himself, so of course, the lesser spirits listen. Unfortunately, this was a common line of slander against Jesus: **Jn. 7:20; 8:48 + 52; 10:20.**

--Jesus' teaching defied their own, and they couldn't deny His supernatural power, so they had to discount Him somehow. All they could do was say His supernatural power was real, but not God-given.

--Seeing what others did to Jesus is important for us. Sadly, the Tasmanian Tiger is extinct, but unfortunately, slanderers and liars are not! We will cross their path in this life. It is better to have our good evil spoken of than our evil well-spoken of.

--(16) Other *testers* join the attack on Jesus. He will deal with their demands after He deals with the satanic slanderers. Understand, we will all come across unreasonable people in life. Not everyone is sincerely seeking the truth.

2 Thessalonians 3:1-2: Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you, and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith.

Verses 17-20:

--But He, knowing their thoughts, said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and a house divided against a house falls. If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? Because you say I cast out demons by Beelzebub. And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you."

--(17-18) Jesus simply points out that Satan's kingdom would fall if their claims were true.

--(19) Then He challenges their sincerity. Are they saying the same thing about the other Jewish exorcists of the day (**Lk. 9:49; Acts 19:13**)?

--He then says that those other Jewish individuals would see their inconsistency and be their judges.

--(20) Finally, He challenges everyone around with the truth—the heart of the issue. Was Jesus working by **the finger of God**? That term would remind them of Moses' plague of lice in Egypt, something they knew well.

Exodus 8:19: Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, just as the LORD had said.

--Jesus wants a decision, not hardened hearts. ***Surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.***

Verses 21-22:

--When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace. But when a stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoils.

--Now Jesus states the truth that everyone had just seen with their eyes, but some were refusing to admit in their hearts.

--Satan is very powerful. He is a strong, armored man defending his palace. He had control of the possessed man. So much so that his **goods**—the man's speech and body, were under the demon's control.

--But Jesus, the Stronger One, overcame him and took all the spoils, everything the demon controlled. Jesus' strength was why the man was now free and speaking.

--Jesus has power over demons because He works with the finger of God.

Colossians 1:13: He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

Verses 23-26:

--He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters.

When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he says, "I will return to my house from which I came." And when he comes, he finds it swept and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first.

--(23) Jesus makes it clear that no one can remain neutral between Him and Satan. We are either *with Jesus gathering* or *with Satan scattering*. *A sobering warning for the religious leaders who were literally doing Satan's will!*

--No one likes conflict, or lines of division, or choosing sides. But when it comes to Jesus, neutrality is a choice; a choice against Jesus Christ.

1 Kings 18:21: *And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word.*

--Are we personally and publicly with Jesus? Are we working with Him to gather? If not, we are working with the enemy. That is not slander; it is the truth from Jesus Christ.

--**(24-26)** Jesus presses this truth by giving a warning to anyone who is attempting to keep a "neutral" home.

--Intersecting all our lives is a spiritual realm that Jesus sees, which we do not. If anyone call tell us about Satan and demons, it is Him. His description here is creepy but instructive.

--Jesus tells us that a displaced demon restlessly wanders in places without water, and if it doesn't find a place to settle, it thinks back to where it came from. It goes back to the house it was put out of, and finds it well-ordered, but still empty.

--Seeing an opportunity, it grabs seven more wicked spirits and settles into the neutral home. The point: ***the last state of that man is worse than the first.*** No one can remain neutral for long.

--A stern warning for anyone fooling around with spiritual things but not choosing Jesus! Who is the strong man of your house? Is it Jesus Christ?

1 John 4:4: *You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*

Verses 27-28:

--***And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!"***

But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

--**(27)** A woman, seemingly understanding Jesus' teaching and overcome with the wonder of it, cries out a blessing on Jesus' mother.

--**(28)** Jesus' response is important. He says: ***More than that.*** . . . meaning that Mary was certainly blessed, as Luke has already clearly stated in his gospel, but there is a group of people even more blessed than His mother: ***those who hear the word of God and keep it.***

--There is something better than being the birth-mother of Jesus Christ. We must have more than a physical relation to Jesus. We need a spiritual relation to Him.

2 Corinthians 5:16-17: *Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

--It was a greater honor for Mary to have Christ's Spirit in her heart than His body in her womb. Which is wonderfully what happened for Mary and Jesus' brethren (**Acts 1:14**).

--The very reason He was born was for us to believe His Word, surrender to Him, and find eternal life!

Verses 29-32:

--And while the crowds were thickly gathered together, He began to say, "This is an evil generation. It seeks a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah the prophet. For as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so also the Son of Man will be to this generation. The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon is here. The men of Nineveh will rise up in judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here.

--A side note before we get into the main application of this text. It is important to see two things about Jesus' use of these Old Testament accounts.

--First, Jesus believes in the Old Testament as history. These are real people, real places, and real happenings.

--Second, those who rise up in judgment are clearly still alive!

--**(29-30)** Now Jesus answers those who were seeking a sign (**16**). They wanted Jesus to perform a supernatural act to win them over. Jesus calls them ***an evil generation***.

--They were evil in that they were not sincerely asking Him for a sign, and therefore, no sign would be given. Their hard hearts would have rejected Jesus no matter what. For Jesus to have responded to their lying demands would have been to entertain sinful wishes. *There will always be false "sign seekers" who will claim to believe if Jesus does some miracle for them. Better to leave them alone as Jesus does.*

--How do we know they wouldn't have responded? Because they would get their sign. Jesus calls it ***the sign of Jonah the prophet***. He says, ***as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so also the Son of Man will be to this generation***.

--Jonah *became* a sign by being vomited up on the beach by a giant fish! Jonah miraculously escaped from death, and the pagan, idolatrous Ninevites repented at his message. They received Jonah, the whale man, as a messenger from God.

--In like manner, Jesus Christ would miraculously conquer death, rise from the grave, and return to the people of Israel, preaching a message of forgiveness to the very ones who murdered Him!

****Acts 3:26: To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities.****

--Jonah as a sign was crazy. Jesus as a sign was much crazier!

--(31-32) The Queen of the South (1 Kings 10:1), or the Queen of Sheba, expressed faith in coming to hear the God-given wisdom of Solomon. The men of Nineveh expressed repentance by responding to the preaching of Jonah.

--Why say this? Jesus is, directly and truthfully, warning the evil crowds that He had come with a greater wisdom and message than either Solomon or Jonah, so they should respond with like faith and repentance.

--If not, then what? They would be judged, and the Queen of Sheba and the men of Nineveh would join in their judgment as God's witnesses against them. How solemn and amazing! Who else could dare say anything like this but Jesus Christ?! Truly He is either Lord or lunatic.

--Where does this leave the evil and unbelieving generation? Condemned and judged! There will be no excuses on judgment day. All witnesses will be against the one who has refused to repent and put their faith in Jesus Christ.

--The light we reject matters.

Verses 33-36:

--No one, when he has lit a lamp, puts it in a secret place or under a basket, but on a lampstand, that those who come in may see the light. The lamp of the body is the eye. Therefore, when your eye is good, your whole body also is full of light. But when your eye is bad, your body also is full of darkness. Therefore take heed that the light which is in you is not darkness. If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, the whole body will be full of light, as when the bright shining of a lamp gives you light.

--Jesus addressed those who accused Him of working through satanic energy and then warned them not to attempt neutrality. Having addressed those who tempted Him in asking for a sign, Jesus warns them about obscuring light.

--(33) The point of lighting a lamp is to illuminate darkness so people can see. People do not turn on lights to hide them.

--These individuals had been actively trying to block the light of Jesus Christ: slandering His works as demonic, attempting neutrality, tempting Him for signs, removing the focus from Him to another, ignoring His preaching, etc.

--(34-36) Vision affects bodily function. The human eye is the organ that receives light for the body. If the eye is **good**, the whole body will receive light. If the eye is **bad**, the whole body will be in the dark.

--In like manner, we have a spiritual eye to receive spiritual light. We cannot live true spiritual life without spiritual light. If I reject spiritual light, I will live in spiritual darkness!

****John 12:35-36: Then Jesus said to them, "A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them.****

--If our eye is not good, or single, if it is rejecting the light of Jesus Christ or looking away from Him to another, we will live in darkness. That is why Jesus warns: ***Therefore take heed the light which is in you is not darkness.***

--Let the light of God shine in your heart. Do not block it! Who knows what darkness will enter if we do?!