

The Gospel of Luke

Lesson 25: Luke 11:14-54

Their eyes were dark and their vision skewed. The Light shone brightly before them, and yet they could not see. Religious pride had long since blinded the eyes of the people, preventing them from distinguishing between the darkness and the light; between the work of the devil and the work of God. “The light [shined] in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it” (John 1:5, NKJV).

It has been said that “if the darkness comes from within a man and prevents him from seeing the light of Jesus, it doesn’t matter how bright or glorious Jesus is—he can’t see it” (Spurgeon). Simply stated, the brightest sun cannot give man light if he does not want to see.

Jesus did not hide Himself in the night, but like a lamp upon a stand, He came to illuminate man’s darkness and irradiate his heart. The light has dawned upon all men, but only those who love His appearing will bask in the risen Son (John 3:19-21).

Read Luke 11:14-23.

1. Of what was Jesus accused? Why did some launch this attack? (Consider Matthew 9:32-34.)
2. The word “*divided*” in verse 17 and 18 simply means “to be or become separated into two groups”. What results when a kingdom, its rulers and subjects, or a household is in opposition with itself?
3. In verse 20, Jesus makes a statement about His power and its source, while exposing the foolishness of the people’s logic. Read Exodus 8:19, 31:18, and Deuteronomy 9:10. By claiming to wield the finger of God, what is Christ stating?

4. Reread Luke 11:21-22. Describe Satan, the strong man's:
 - a. strength.
 - b. arms/ armor.
 - c. kingdom (consider also Luke 4:5-7, John 12:31, 14:30).
 - d. goods/ spoils.

What is taken from the adversary when Christ comes upon a man?

Why is the strong man's "peace" illusive (v.21)? (Read Luke 10:18, John 12:31, Colossians 2:15, 1 Peter 3:22, Revelation 12:8-11.)

5. In Luke 11:23, Christ says, "He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters". Why must a decision be made regarding Jesus' authority and the source of His power? Think on Luke 16:13.
6. Why do you believe the people couldn't distinguish between the work of God and the work of Satan?

Continue reading in Luke 11, verses 24-28.

7. The religious leaders had experienced some success in casting evil spirits out of men. But in what condition did they leave them? (Describe the condition of the house, verse 25.)

8. What then, does the dwelling place represent? Why is this place able to be indwelt by the unclean spirit and other evil spirits?

9. The human heart is intended to be filled; it will be occupied. According to this parable, why can't a man stay undecided regarding Christ? Why would he want to?

Oswald Chambers has said, "Neutrality in religion is always cowardice... God turns the cowardice of a desired neutrality in to terror".

10. The Christ child indwelt Mary; to hold the Babe close to her chest was to hold the Messiah close to her heart. According to Christ, how is even greater privilege and intimacy achieved? (v.28) (Consider John 14:15-21, 23.)

Read Luke 11:29-36.

11. What is the sign of Jonah? See Jonah 1:17, Luke 24:46, Acts 10:40, 1 Corinthians 15:4.

12. What did the pagan Queen (2 Chronicles 9:1-12) and the pagan Ninevites (Jonah 3:3-10) recognize that the Jews did not?

13. Compare the “good” and “bad” eye.

14. The Jews thought they saw and lived in the light but they could not perceive the Light that shined brightly before them (v.33). If the entrance of light is dependent upon the health of the eye, what does this reveal about those who can’t see? Think on John 3:19-21.

Charles Spurgeon remarks, “If you do not see Jesus it is not because He has hidden Himself in the darkness, but because your eyes are blinded”.

15. In verse 35 of Luke 11, “light” refers to its source. While many appear to emit light, the source is dark or unhealthy. Why did the religious leaders keep the law and perform good works? Why do many attempt to do the same today?

Read verses 37-54 of Luke 11.

16. In what ways is Jesus’ rebuke to the Pharisees and lawyers a continuance of His statements about light and its source?

17. Per verses 40-42, what is important to God’s heart—external actions or internal attitudes? With which of these two things do many associate righteousness? What title are these individuals given in verse 44?

18. What motivated the Pharisees' actions (v.43)?
19. "If these religious leaders were as concerned about cleansing their hearts as they were about their hands", what kind of men would they be? Why do "we often want to look to a ceremony or a ritual to cleanse us, instead of the sacrificial work of God on our behalf" (Guzik)?
20. To what are hypocrites compared? (v.44) "Just as if they had walked over an unmarked grave, people become unclean without even knowing it every time they [encounter] the Pharisees." Why are individuals like the Pharisees detrimental to the church today?
21. Rather than taking heed to Jesus' words, the Lawyers sought to justify themselves by way of comparison. What had the lawyers done to prevent the people from coming to God? (vv.46, 49, 52)
22. How was their response to Christ like their fathers' response to the prophets? Why would they be responsible for their deaths?
23. The lawyers had taken the "*key of knowledge*"—"the capacity for rational thought or inference or discrimination"—from the people by adding laws, false teaching, and withholding truth. Why did the religious leaders place such stumbling blocks in the way of the people?

24. What resulted on account of Christ's reproach? (vv.53-54)