

Luke Chapter 11 Continued

Luke 11:24 "When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out."

“Unclean spirit is gone”: Christ was characterizing the work of the phony exorcists. What appears to be a true exorcism is merely a temporary respite, after which the demon returns with 7 others (verse 26).

This unclean spirit Jesus is speaking of is one who has been cast out of a person. This disembodied spirit is looking for a human body that will accept him into them. Then he comes back to the man he was cast out of.

The only way a person can keep an evil spirit that once dwelt inside their body from coming back is to fill the vacancy so full of the Word of God that when the evil spirit tries to re-enter there will be a no vacancy sign out.

The person who has been delivered must immediately fill that vacancy with God and His goodness that there will be no place for the evil to come back to.

Luke 11:25-26 "And when he cometh, he findeth [it] swept and garnished." "Then goeth he, and taketh [to him] seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last [state] of that man is worse than the first."

Jesus gives a striking parable of the precarious spiritual condition of the nation. The parable is that of a house well “swept” but unoccupied. The demon having been driven out, but finding no place to rest, returns with seven other spirits, resulting in an even greater degeneration. Only by inviting Christ to be the honored guest and head of the home could Israel know the full blessing of God.

A man with an unclean spirit, a demon, is chosen to represent them. Then goeth he (transient repentance), returns with seven other evil spirits worse than himself (a relapse into sin), and the last state is worse than the first, more wicked and more wretched. So generally, with those who dally with sin.

This parable represents the case of the Jewish church and nation. It is also applicable to all those who hear the word of God, and are in part reformed, but not truly converted. The unclean spirit leaves for a time, but when he returns, he finds Christ is not there to shut him out.

The danger is in not filling the vacancy. If you do not get immediately filled with God and His Word, then truly the worse state is seven times worse than it was before they were delivered. The demon spirit will come right back if you let him and bring more evil spirits with him.

Luke 11:27 "And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed [is] the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked."

We see in this a woman who is overpowered by the miracles and the teachings that Jesus has brought. She knows no other way, but to bless the mother who birthed Him and breast fed Him.

Luke 11:28 "But he said, Yea rather, blessed [are] they that hear the word of God, and keep it."

“Yea, rather”: This has the sense of “Yes, but rather”. While not denying the blessedness of Mary, Christ did not countenance any tendency to elevate Mary as an object of veneration. Mary’s relationship to Him as His physical mother did not confer on her any greater honor than the blessedness of those who hear and obey the word of God.

Jesus quickly turns His blessing from Mary who gave Him birth to those who receive salvation and are filled with the Word of God. Truly Mary was blessed among women for she was obedient to God.

Jesus, however, does not look back but looks forward to those who receive the Word and have their names written in the Lamb's book of life. Those who Jesus is speaking of as being blessed here are those who will receive eternal life.

Luke 11:29 “And when the people were gathered thick together, he began to say, This is an evil generation: they seek a sign; and there shall no sign be given it, but the sign of Jonah the prophet.”

“They seek a sign”: Jesus always declined to give signs on demand. Evidences were not the means by which He appealed to unbelievers.

Luke 11:30 "For as Jonah was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to this generation."

“Jonah was a sign”: I.e., a sign of judgment to come. Jonah’s emergence from the fish’s belly pictured Christ’s resurrection. Jesus clearly regarded Jonah’s account as historically accurate.

We see from this that Jonah was in the whale 3 days, and then he went through Nineveh telling them to repent. They repented and God spared their city.

It appears that they were seeing signs every single day. It would seem that all the miracles He was doing would be enough of a sign for all of them, but it didn't seem to be. The specific sign that He was telling them of is His resurrection from the grave after 3 days.

Luke 11:31 "The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation, and condemn them: for she came from the utmost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon [is] here."

The queen of Sheba was smart enough to realize that Solomon's wisdom was beyond what humans are ordinarily endowed with, and she was not ashamed to come and admire someone of superior intelligence.

These Israelites had one in their midst (the Supreme Intelligence), who created Solomon, and yet, they were not as smart as the queen of Sheba because they did not show Him great respect.

In the first chapter of John, you will see that Jesus (the Word), was Creator God. On judgment day, the queen of Sheba will tell these Israelites how foolish they were not to recognize Messiah.

Luke 11:32 "The men of Nineveh shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and, behold, a greater than Jonah [is] here."

“Men of Nineveh ... repented”: The revival in Nineveh under Jonah's' preaching was one of the most extraordinary spiritual revivals the world has ever seen. Some have suggested that the repentance of the Ninevites stopped short of saving faith, because the city reverted within one generation to its old pagan ways (Nahum 3:7-8).

Here again, we see that when Jonah went through the land telling Nineveh of their sins, the King and all the land fasted and were in sackcloth and ashes and repented; and God spared Nineveh.

Jesus is a greater preacher than Jonah, and yet, these Israelites have not repented or heeded His message. On judgment day, they can stand and tell these Israelites their terrible mistake.

Luke 11:33 "No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth [it] in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light."

The Light of the world who is Jesus Christ our Lord must not be hidden, but must be raised to the highest. Those in great darkness can see the Light and come to that Light and receive life everlasting. A light is to illuminate dark areas.

The Light on the candlestick above, is lifted so the Light can be seen from a greater distance. That is what we Christians must do with the Light of Jesus, Lift Him up so He can be seen from a distance.

The candlestick in the church and in the tabernacle in the wilderness symbolizes the Light of Jesus.

Luke 11:34 "The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when [thine eye] is evil, thy body also [is] full of darkness."

“The light of the body”: This is a different metaphor from the one (in verse 33). There the lamp speaks of the Word of God; here the eye is the “lamp” – i.e., the source of light, for the body.

“When thine eye is evil”: The problem was their perception, not a lack of light. They did not need a sign; they needed hearts to believe the great display of divine power they had already seen.

Luke 11:35 "Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness."

The eye is the window to the soul. You can look into a person's eyes and see the goodness of their heart: or you can look into dead looking eyes, and see the evil that lurks within their heart. Their eyes give them away.

When a person looks at you with sparkling eyes that are full of life, whether they are old or young, you know the Light of Jesus has been kindled in his heart. If you see a person who cannot look straight into your eyes, he has an evil heart.

People on drugs and alcohol have dead looking eyes. Sometimes they have blood shot eyes also, but their eyes have no expression just a dead look. Out of the issue of the heart comes what we are, and we discern what we are by what our eyes reveal.

Luke 11:36 "If thy whole body therefore [be] full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light."

Have you ever noticed on a very dark night when there are no street lights, you can see a house with a small crack in the curtains even if a very small candle is the only light in the house? It can be seen from a very far distance. The smallest light can do away with darkness.

When we accept Jesus (the Light), into our lives, it does away with darkness. His Light shows in our eyes. This Light of Jesus in us runs all of the darkness away. There is no longer any darkness at all in us when the Light of Jesus comes in. Our whole body is full of His Light and some of it shows in the body's windows, our eyes.

Many people believe Christians can be possessed of devils. I do not. You cannot be totally possessed of Light (Jesus), and totally possessed of darkness at the same time. Light does away with darkness.

A Christian can be oppressed from without. Oppression is an attack from without. Possession is total control from within. If Jesus, who is Light, possesses us, then the devil who is darkness cannot possess us.

Luke Chapter 11 Continued Questions

1. The unclean spirit walks through dry places when he is cast out of man and looks for _____.
2. When the evil spirit cannot find a place to go, where does he come back to?

3. A disembodied evil spirit's favorite place to dwell is where?
4. How is the only way to keep an evil spirit from re-entering the person who was delivered?
5. If this evil spirit can come back in the person who was delivered, who does he bring with him?
6. What is the danger for the delivered?
7. In verse 27, the woman says blessed is the woman that did 2 things. What were they?
8. Jesus says yea rather blessed are they who do what?
9. Why was Mary blessed in reality?
10. What description was given in verse 29 of how many people were there?
11. What did Jesus tell them would be the only sign given to them of who He was?
12. Who was Jonah a sign to?
13. When Jonah preached, what did these people do?
14. What was the specific sign Jesus was giving of Himself?
15. Who is the queen of the South?
16. Why did she come to see Solomon?
17. What made Jesus superior to Solomon?
18. Who was a much greater preacher than Jonah and they did not listen to Him?
19. Where should a candle be put?
20. Who is the candlestick symbolic of?
21. Who is the Light of the world?
22. The light of the body is the _____.
23. The eye is the _____ to the _____.
24. When you look into sparkling clear eyes, what do you know about this person?
25. When you see dead, blood shot eyes, what do you know about this person?

26. What is a small light that Jesus mentions in verse 36?

27. Can a Christian be possessed of a devil?