

Luke 11

Luke 11.1-13

V1 – What brought on the request to learn more about how to pray? The example of Jesus and the teaching of John the Baptist (See *Luke 5.33* - John taught his disciples to pray)

-Where is another wording of the Model Prayer (or the "Lord's Prayer")? *Matt. 6.9-13*

-Is this another account of the same occasion? No, this is a different occasion (following a period of prayer, not part of the Sermon on the Mount)

-Note to gospel preachers: There are some preachers who believe that they should never preach the same sermon a second time to a different audience

-Some believe that one will lose the enthusiasm of the lesson if they preach it on another occasion

-But Jesus did not believe that way – as we read through the Four Gospels, he frequently gave basically the same lesson on several occasions

-Our time is very limited in this life, and we can certainly give a lesson again to a different audience and improve it in the process

V2 – Is this the same as in *Matt. 6*? No

-Why? Why is it a little different? To keep people from using the "Lord's Prayer" for mechanical worship

-It was not to be a set pattern of words that we are to follow, but some general principles of prayer

-Praying is therefore not the rote reciting of words – **Read *Matt. 6.7-8***

Outline of the prayer:

1. Addressing God as our Father (not just Creator, Ruler of the Universe, etc.)

2. Praise for God – reverence of God

3. Prayer for the kingdom (the worldwide state of the church) – it was still future at this point

V3 – 4. Praying for our daily needs

-We may work for bread, but we must still pray for it and for all our material needs

-We need bread so that we can carry on the work of the kingdom

V4 – 5. We are to ask God for forgiveness

-What is our forgiveness based on? Whether or not we forgive others (plus our repentance)

6. We are to pray that we will not be tempted above what we are able to bear

-See *1 Cor. 10.13* and *2 Peter 2.9*

V5 – Jesus began to illustrate the prayer with a parable

-The setting for the story: Midnight

-What would have been our reaction? Irritation

-Why? Getting up without waking up the children, getting dressed, unlocking the door, etc.

V6 – Message from the neighbor? "A guest has arrived; we don't have any food. Please loan me three loaves of bread"

-Attitude of the man making the request? Not selfishness, but love

V7 – Answer of the man in bed? Go away

V8 – But what does he do? He gets up and gives him the bread

- His "persistence" (NASB footnote: shamelessness)
- Explain?** Daring to ask; he must have really needed the bread
- We find it hard to be mean to those we love us

V 9-10 – The application? Our prayers will be heard by God our Father

-Note: The principles of prayer – We are only to pray for our real needs and with the right frame of mind

V 11-13 – Would we give a snake to a son who asks for a fish, or a scorpion to a son who asked for an egg?

- Application?** We grant the requests of our children
- God also grants requests of his children (when it is in their best interests)

Luke 11.14-23 (possibly parallel to *Matt. 12.22* and *Mark 3.19-30*)

V 14 – What miracle began this encounter? Casting out a demon

- The effect on the observers?** They marveled
- Did anyone argue that a miracle had taken place?** Absolutely not
- If this was the same account as in *Mark 12.22* and *Mark 3.19-30*, this man was also blind
- Is it reasonable that a person might also be blind as well as without speech?**
- Who in American history was blind and deaf from early childhood (age of 19 months)?**
Hellen Keller (play: *The Miracle Worker*)
- Who brought her out of her isolation?** Anne Sullivan (first word: Water)

V 15-16 – What two groups of people argued over this?

1. Those who thought he had done it by the power of Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons
 2. Some wanted to see greater a greater miracle from heaven
- Beelzebul = "lord of flies" or "lord of dung" (British novel: *Lord of the Flies*....)
 - Another name for Satan (see *v 18*)

V 17-18 – The reply of Jesus to the first group? Satan would not work against himself

-What great American statesman delivered perhaps his most famous speech based on this Scripture? A. Lincoln in his "House Divided" speech:

The **House Divided Speech** was an address given by Abraham Lincoln (who would later become President of the U.S.) on June 17, 1858, at what was then the Illinois State Capital in Springfield, upon accepting the Illinois' Republican Party's nomination as that state's United States senator. The speech became the launching point for his unsuccessful campaign for the **Senate** seat held by Stephen A. Douglas; this campaign would climax with the Lincoln-Douglas debates of 1858.

The best-known passage of the speech is:

A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure, permanently, half slave and half free. I do not expect the **Union** to be dissolved — I do not expect the house to fall — but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other. Either the opponents of slavery will arrest the further spread of it, and place it where the public mind shall rest in the belief that it is in the course of ultimate extinction; or its advocates will push it forward, till it shall become lawful in all the States, old as well as new — North as well as South.

- This is true for countries, as well as congregations and other organizations

V 19 – Most forceful charge:

- According to brother Boles, the Pharisees of the First Century also claimed to have power to cast out demons
- How did they do it?** The power of Satan

V 20 – Notice the logic of Jesus – Power not from Satan?

- Then where was it from? It was from God
- Application?** The kingdom of God had come to them

V 21-22 – **Who is the first strongman?** Satan

- Satan had the power up to this period of time
- Who was the stronger man?** Jesus
- What did Jesus do?** Release the captives of Satan

V 23 – **What two choices did Jesus give the people?** With him or against him

- Are there those today who cannot make up their minds?** Yes, weak in attendance, in commitment, in dedication
- What would be the message of Christ to them?** Choose one way or the other
- Remember *Rev. 3* and the message of Christ to the church at Laodicea? You can't be lukewarm – be either hot or cold

Luke 11.24-26

V 24-25 – We learn here a little about how demons operate

- A demon is like a spirit looking for a body
- We can cast out an evil characteristic from our lives, but we cannot remain neutral
- We have to put something in the place of that evil behavior
- There is a writer for the Northwest Herald newspaper who deals with problems of alcoholism
- He is in there almost every day (it seems)
- What is the problem with alcoholism?** It keeps coming back
- Best advice?** So we must replace bad habits with good habits
- Otherwise what will the result be?** The last state will be worse than the first
- Remember *2 Peter 2.20-22* – like the dog returning to its vomit

V 26 – It is seven times worse when a person falls into an addiction and breaks that addiction and then falls back into it again

Luke 11.27-28

V 27 – Many in the crowd were apparently moved by the words of Jesus

- Describe the attitude of this woman?** Probably sincere
- Luke 1.48* – Remember the prophecy that people would call Mary blessed
- This would have been the perfect time for Jesus to tell people to worship Mary and to pray to her and to call her "Mother of God"
- The new pope was asked what would be the first thing he would do when he would be pronounced pope – **His answer?** Pray to Mary

V 28 – A very interesting reply of Jesus

-No, **blessed are...**? Those who hear the word and do it

Luke 11.29-32

V 29 – The crowds had gathered around Jesus

-**Why did Jesus call that generation "wicked"?** They demanded a "sign"

-**Had they already seen "signs"?** Yes

-**Why were they not convinced?** Because they were wicked (as Jesus said)

-Jim Nabors – a homosexual, according to the newspaper yesterday – a wicked generation today also

-Today we need to ask people what it would take to convince them to believe in Christ

-**What was "The sign of Jonah"?** **Read Matt. 12.40** (parallel passage)

V 30 – The resurrection of Jesus would be his greatest sign

V 31 – **Who was the Queen of the South (from Ethiopia)? – Read 1 Kings 10.7 - Her conclusion?**

-**Why was Jesus greater than Solomon?**

V 32 – **How were the people of Nineveh better than Jesus' generation?** They repented at the preaching of Jonah

-**Did Jonah do any miracles in Nineveh?** No, not a single one

-Jesus had performed many miracles before the Jews, but they still did not believe

Luke 11.33-36 (highly symbolic with "metaphors," not "similes" in v 34ff)

V 33 – **What do we do with a lamp?** Place it where it can shine where it is needed

V 34 – **If we do not have the light (of God) within us, whose fault is it?** Not the gospel's, but ours (darkened eyes)

-People reject the gospel and become more and more hardened and live in self-imposed darkness

V 35-36 – **What are we to make sure of?** That we are letting the light in

Luke 11.37-41

V 37 – Jesus was invited to eat with a Pharisee (probably with good motives)

-The Pharisees were extremely strict; they went far beyond the Law of Moses

-Read *Barclay*, Luke, p. 155

V 38 – "Washed" = baptized (they certainly didn't sprinkle water over their hands)

-See *Mark 7.4* - about the washing of cups, etc.

-**Is Jesus saying that we should not wash our hands before we eat?** No

-He is talking about the ceremonies of the Pharisees

V 39 – Jesus did not condemn the washing of the outside of the dishes, but the Pharisees left their insides dirty

-Did Jesus soften his message? Other scriptures: **Read 2 Tim. 4.1-5** (also *Acts 20.27*)

V 40 – Does God want us clean inside or outside? Both

V 41 – Of the two (inside or outside), which is more important? Inside

-Remember *James 2* about discriminating against people because of their poor clothes

-**Other examples where God judged inside (as opposed to judging outside)?** The selection of David to be king, the circumstances of the birth of Christ

Luke 11.42-52

V 42 – Tithe? To pay a tenth of something

-Are we to give 10% today? No – Read **1 Cor. 16-1-2** – as we have prospered

-**What were the Jews tithing?** Even their little garden herbs (every 10th leaf)

-**Did Jesus condemn them for that?** No

-**What did he condemn them for?** Missing God's justice and his love for us

-*Matt. 23.23* – law, justice, mercy, faith

V 43 – Brother Boles: front seats = those facing the audience

-**What did the Pharisees love?** The front seats and titles

-**Any applications today? Any titles today?** In the denominations of our day

-**What titles to people like to use in religion today?** Rev., etc.

V 44 – Like old burial sites: green grass, but tombs underneath the grass

V 45 – Did the lawyer see himself as guilty also? Probably he felt the force of the words of Christ

V 46 – A lawyer = An expert in the Law of Moses (not like modern-day lawyers, although some applications might be appropriate in some situations)

-**The first condemnation of lawyers?** They gave burdensome decisions, but did not help people bear those burdens

-They had added numerous items to the Law of Moses and had made Jewish life unbearable

-But they themselves knew all the loopholes

-News in paper yesterday: The Supreme Court has just started requiring that police get a court order before giving a driver a test for drunk driver (loopholes)

V 47 – **Second condemnation?** They killed the prophets and built tombs and monuments to them

-This is similar to Stephen's speech in *Acts 7* – the Jews had always been stubborn and rebellious people

-We need only to study what happened at Masada in 70 AD to see their stubbornness and rebelliousness

V 48 – Even if they did not kill the prophets, what showed that they agreed with their fathers?

They maintained the tombs of their fathers

V 49-51 – A statement of God the Father made to Jesus (according to brother Boles) – it is not found in the Old Testament

-**What would happen to the prophets and apostles?** Some would be killed (example: Peter, Paul, certainly James, probably John, Thomas, etc.)

-See the book: *Fox's Book of Martyrs*

V 50 – Their blood would be charged against that generation

V 51 – **The first martyr?** Abel

-**The last of the martyrs in the Old Testament?** The prophet Zachariah

V 52 – What a charge against the teachers of the Old Law! **3 charges:**

1. They took the key of knowledge away
2. They failed to enter themselves
3. They kept others out

-Notice that Jesus was not like the big-name denominational preachers who are afraid even to mention the word "sin" out of fear that they might offend somebody!

Luke 11.53-54

V 53-54 – **What was the reaction of the Pharisees who heard these words from our Lord?** They began to plot against him

-**What did this prove?** That the Lord was absolutely correct in his assessment of them

-**If they had truly been sincere, what would they have done?** Repented on the spot and started following Christ

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