

## Luke Chapter 11

---

V: 1 This request is made a couple years into Jesus' public ministry and well after the Sermon on the Mount – which included Jesus' teaching on how to pray.

- “As He was praying...” – leading by example.
- This request is being made after having seen the power and effectiveness of Jesus' ministry over the time since the Sermon on the Mount.
- They didn't ask how to perform more miracles or for the gift of prophesy – but they saw that the power behind the power was that of an effective prayer life.
- Teach us “to” pray; not how to pray.
- We learn from this also that John the Baptist was a man of prayer.
- Jesus then essentially repeats His sermon on prayer from the Sermon on the Mount.

Jesus gives us a lead up in Matthew 6:

**Matthew 6:5-8** <sup>5</sup>“And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward. <sup>6</sup>But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. <sup>7</sup>But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. <sup>8</sup>Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask Him.”

- Jesus is saying that prayer is not a show for other people, or to put ourselves on display, prayer isn't to be a pre-tense – it is to be personal, and meaningful – not just meaningless words repeated over and over again.

**Ecclesiastes 5:2** “Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.”

V: 2 “Our Father” – Abba – Daddy – personal relationship Vs Old Testament relationship.

- El Shaddai – “The Mighty One”
- Elohim – “The Strong One”
- Yahweh – The unspeakable word which means “I am that I am”.
- OT relationship was through a priest and through sacrifices.
- “Father” is a personal term that implies relationship, it literally means “life giver”.

- Why the name change? Did God change? No!

**John 1:12** “But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.”

**Matthew 5:9** “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.”

**Romans 5:1** “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- As the word “Father” indicates a personal relationship it should also be noted that without such a personal relationship our prayers would be meaningless.

**Isaiah 59:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: <sup>2</sup>But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear.”

“*Which art in Heaven*” – lest we forget our relative positions. He’s always due our reverence and worship, not to be referred to in casual terms lacking the reverence He is so worthy of.

**Ecclesiastes 5:2** “Do not be rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter anything before God. For God is in heaven, and you upon earth; therefore let thy words be few.”

- This phrase speaks of His role & address, He is God almighty, the creator, we are the creation, created for His good pleasure.

- 
- Often times when we go to prayer we’re overwhelmed by our circumstances or troubles, but when we start out our prayer with:

“*Oh Lord, you alone are God, you alone created the heavens and the earth, you alone are worthy of our praise...*” How small our problems are compared to such a big God!

- Prayer isn’t sharing time with God; we’re not telling Him anything He doesn’t already know. Prayer is a time of communion with God, it’s a time of laying our hearts bare before Him, humbling ourselves before Him, seeking His help, seeking His strength.

---

“*Hallowed be Thy name*”

**Exodus 20:7**

3<sup>rd</sup> commandment.

**Hallowed:** (G-37) hagiazo, hag-ee-ad'-zo; to make holy, i.e. purify or consecrate; (mentally) to venerate:--hallow, be holy, sanctify.

**Psalms 8:9** “O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!”

**Isaiah 57:15** “For thus says the high and lofty One that inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.”

**Philippians 2:9-11** <sup>9</sup>“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: <sup>10</sup>That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; <sup>11</sup>And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Peter

**Acts 4:12** “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

**Psalms 99:3** “Let them praise thy great and terrible name; for it is holy.”

1<sup>st</sup> petition – *“Thy Kingdom come”* – come quickly Lord Jesus.

- Our first concern and request should be for the kingdom of heaven as opposed to ourselves:

**Matthew 6:33** “Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.”

The very last prayer recorded in the Bible:

**Revelation 22:20** “He which testifieth these things saith, surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!”

2<sup>nd</sup> *“Thy will be done”*, God’s will be done – still focused on Him!

- This acknowledged that the world is in rebellion to God, in rebellion against His Word, His authority, and to His will. Our prayer is that all of this would be changed.

**Romans 12:2** “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

Jesus praying to His Father said:

**Matthew 26:39** “... O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.”

*“On earth as it is in heaven.”* There is no questioning God’s will in Heaven, there is no struggle between the will of God and the will of the angels, or saints – God’s will is flawless.

- Thy kingdom / thy will be done: proper order, God first, then our needs, all in due time.

V: 3 3<sup>rd</sup> petition – our needs – proper sequence is important. We can't give to others what we don't have.

*“Give us”* - ask, humble yourself! Expressing our daily dependence on Him.

**James 4:2b** “... ye have not because ye ask not.”

**James 1:17** “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

**Psalm 34:15** “The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry.”

*“day by day”* – *“this day”*, not knowing what tomorrow will bring.

**James 4:14-15** “<sup>14</sup>Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. <sup>15</sup>For that ye ought to say, if the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.”

**Matthew 6:34** “Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.”

*“Our daily bread”* – Our daily sustenance; provision for life; but also the bread of life.

**John 6:35** “I am the bread of life. He that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst.”

**Matthew 4:4** “...it is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

**Job 23:12** “Neither have I gone back from the commandment of His lips; I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.”

**John 4:34** “Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.”

V: 4 *“Forgive us our sins”*

**1 John 1:9** “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

**Psalm 51:1-17** Turn there.

**Psalm 32:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. <sup>2</sup>Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.”

*“As we forgive our debtors”* (Matthew)

*“... for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us.”* (Luke)

- This is a pledge extending forgiveness to others for their sins against us and for debts owed us.

**Ephesians 4:32** “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

**Matthew 18:23-35** Turn there.

**Colossians 3:12-13** “<sup>12</sup>Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; <sup>13</sup>forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.”

“Lead” = “bring” or “Leave” as in don’t leave us there – in or into temptation:

**James 1:13** “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted by God; for God cannot be tempted with evil, nor tempteth He any man.”

**James 1:14-15** “<sup>14</sup>But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. <sup>15</sup>Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”

*“... deliver us from evil.”* = “the evil one” (NKJV)

- We’ve been delivered from sin and death through the blood of Jesus Christ, and God has given us the tools to do this on a practical level:

**1 Corinthians 10:13** “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above what ye are able, but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”

**James 4:7** “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

**2 Timothy 2:22** “Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

**1 Corinthians 15:33** “Be not deceived: evil company corrupts good manners / habits.”

### Still on the subject of prayer:

V: 5-7 Jesus begins to use an illustration that the people at that time could easily relate to, but we don't necessarily think the same way.

- We're thinking why doesn't he just get out of bed and give his neighbor some bread or whatever he needs?
- There is an aspect of the culture that eludes us unless we take the time to examine it.
- "Midnight" – they would have been in bed not too long after sundown.

**Pictures:** Excavations depicting small one room houses / crammed quarters – kids, everyone on mats on floor 5-10 kids varying in age infants to teen agers, all close together for warmth – impossible to get up or move without disturbing the whole household.

V: 8 The man would not get up and give his neighbor just because they are friends – he got up because of his neighbors persistence. (Shameless persistence)

**Luke 18:1-5** <sup>1</sup>“And He spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; <sup>2</sup>saying, there was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: <sup>3</sup>And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, avenge me of mine adversary. <sup>4</sup>And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, though I fear not God, nor regard man; <sup>5</sup>yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.”

- The idea of persistence in prayer, of not quitting or giving up in prayer.

**Colossians 4:2** “Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving.”

- It's not a matter of wearing God down until He relents, it's that God starts in our hearts until His perfect will is worked out in us from the inside out – we're the ones who change, and in time God does what He wants to do.

**Psalm 84:11** “... no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly.”

- Prayer opens the door, just as in this passage.

**John 15:16** “Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in My name, He may give it you.”

V: 9-10      Ask, seek, knock.

“Ask” (G-154). aide, ahee-teh'-o; ask, beg, crave, desire.

**Philippians 4:6**      “Be careful for nothing; but everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God...”

- With both the asking, seeking and knocking the idea is to keep asking, keep seeking, and keep knocking until there is an answer.

**James 4:2-3**      <sup>2</sup>“Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. <sup>3</sup>Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.”

- He that seeketh findeth:

**Jeremiah 29:13**      “And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart.”

- To him that knocks, it shall be opened:

**Philippians 3:13-14**      <sup>13</sup>“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, <sup>14</sup>I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

- This message is for those who have come to the cross, denied themselves, died to themselves and are willing to follow Jesus – for those who have a relationship with Jesus.

V: 11-13      For example... if a “son” – meaning someone who has a relationship asks... it always starts with relationship.

- God hears the prayers of those that love Him, there’s no beating on the door, it’s already open to us through Jesus.

**Psalms 34:15**      “The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry.”

**Proverbs 15:29**      “The Lord is far from the wicked: but He heareth the prayer of the righteous.”

- It is reasonable for a father to give their child bread, a fish, or an egg.
- Sermon on the Mount, spring, grassy hill side snakes, fishy snacks, lots of rocks.

V: 13 Notice the comparison:     1<sup>st</sup>     Earthly – lowly  
  2<sup>nd</sup>     Heavenly – Godly.

- God is so much better than we are, He is the perfect parent:

**Psalm 68:19**            “Blessed be the Lord, who daily leadeth us with benefits,  
                                  even the God of our salvation.”

**Romans 8:31-32**     <sup>31</sup>What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us,  
                                  who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>He that spared not his own Son, but delivered  
                                  Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?”

- As Jesus uses the example of good things, necessary things – He ups the ante considerably using the illustration that God gives the really good gifts, the really necessary gift – of the Holy Spirit!

**James 1:17**    “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh  
                                  down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither  
                                  shadow of turning.”

- To them that ask Him – we can receive the Holy Spirit and the baptism of the Holy Spirit just by asking!

V: 14-16     Jesus cast a demon out of a man that had kept him “dumb” or silent – while some wondered or marveled, others said that He did this through the power of “Beelzebub” or the Lord of the flies or Lord of the dung hill – through the power of Satan.

**Matthew 12:22-24**    Tells us that this man was also blind, and that His accusers were the Pharisees – who would rather have them blind and dumb!

- As Jesus will point out, this makes no sense. Then to add to this insult they ask Him to show them a sign from “heaven” – as opposed to the “earthly” miracle they had just seen.
- The believed that the enemy could do miracles on earth – but that only God could do “heavenly” miracles.

**John 12:37**    “**But though He had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on Him.**”

**2 Peter 3:5**    “**For this they are willingly ignorant...**”

V: 17-19     A kingdom or a house divided against itself cannot wage war against another successfully.

- Jesus states what should be the obvious: Satan isn't going to work or fight against himself



- If I'm doing this by the power of the Devil, then how or who are you doing it through? How successful have you been at this?

One of the funnier stories in the Bible: the 7 sons of Sceva the chief priest.

**Acts 19:13-16** <sup>13</sup>Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, we adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. <sup>14</sup>And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. <sup>15</sup>And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? <sup>16</sup>And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevail against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded."

V: 20 "The finger of God" meaning that God does it so easily as with one finger, manifesting the power of God. All power on Earth and in Heaven is given to Jesus.

**Matthew 28:18** "... all power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth."

- Expressing His deity: "you are in the presence of God"

**Matthew 3:2** "Repent for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand."

V: 21-22 In this case, the strong man is Satan who was defeated in **Matthew 4:1-11**. Jesus has since gone around spoiling his goods, then again ultimately at the cross.

**Isaiah 49:24-26** <sup>24</sup>Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the lawful captive delivered? <sup>25</sup>But thus saith the Lord, even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children. <sup>26</sup>And I will feed them that oppress thee with their own flesh; and they shall be drunken with their own blood, as with sweet wine: and all flesh shall know that I the Lord am thy Savior and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob."

- Jesus entered the strong man's house, this fallen world, and overcame him and has since been spoiling the enemy of his goods which is us being redeemed.

**Colossians 2:15** "And having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it."

- How do we bind the "Strong Man" working in our lives and in the lives of others?  
Prayer!

**Matthew 16:19** "And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Matthew 18:18

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

- Are we armed and equipped for battle? Do we have Jesus in our heart?

**Ephesians 6:13-18** helmet, shield, breastplate – **word of God & prayer!**

V: 23 There is no middle ground; we're on one side or the other.

**James 4:4** “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

- Adulterers / adulteresses – those engaged in spiritual fornication.

**Revelation 3:16** (Laodicea) “So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.”

V: 24-26 Interesting insights on the demonic realm, and it is an illustration of the danger in attempting to remain neutral – which Jesus had just stated was impossible.

- Demons and the Devil never rest!

**Job 1:7** “And the Lord said to Satan, from where do you come? So Satan answered the Lord and said, from going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.”

**1 Peter 5:8** “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

- Gone out? Empty? No such thing! We need to be filled!
- Can't just not be filled with bad, there is no such thing as a void; we must be filled with good, with the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus just said either you are one or the other – no middle / neutral ground!
- Dry places? No water, no oil... no Holy Spirit.

**John 3:5-7** “Jesus answered, most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, you must be born again.”

**1 Corinthians 3:16** “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

Drifting:

1. Not moving forward in our relationship with God.
2. Old habits / practices once discarded, renewed, re-surfacing.
3. Indifference to God's Word.
4. Casual about the Gospel.

- Unless the Lord is at the center of things, including the “cleaning of our house” it will get dirty again.

**Psalm 127:1** “Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.”

Peter gives us a warning:

**2 Peter 2:19-20** <sup>19</sup>“While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. <sup>20</sup>For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.”

- But if we are filled with the Spirit of God, we cannot be “demon possessed”.

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

**2 Corinthians 6:14** “Be ye not un-equally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?”

- The two simply don't mix.

V: 27-28 An attempt to venerate or lift up Jesus' mother in His presence, Jesus makes the correction gently.

**1 Corinthians 1:29** “That no flesh should glory in His presence.”

**1 Timothy 2:5** “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”

**Matthew 12:46-50** Crowded house, Mary / brothers outside seeking after Jesus.

**Matthew 12:49-50** <sup>49</sup>“And He stretched forth His hand toward His disciples, and said, behold My mother and My brethren! <sup>50</sup>For whosoever shall do the will of My Father which is in heaven, the same is My brother, and sister, and mother.”

- Obedience = relationship.

**James 1:22** “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”

- This woman drew attention to Mary the mother of Jesus, a position that only one person could fulfill, but Jesus redirects the focus to a position that any of us can partake in.

**John 1:12** “But as many as received Him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.”

V: 29-30 When the people were “thick together” meaning a large crowd, little room to move around.

- It seems that often times when there was a large group of people together Jesus never taught a message that would “keep” them, or even draw them back for a return visit. Often when he had a large crowd He preached a difficult message.
- Jesus knew that those who had a heart for the word of God would remain, and those that didn’t would go away anyway so He didn’t try to curry favor – just to speak the truth.

*“This is an evil generation”* – they are disbelieving, they seek a sign (V:16) they want some kind of proof.

**Hebrews 11:6** “But without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

**Hebrews 11:1** “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

- No sign except Jonah: Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the wail – in the grave, then spat out / resurrected on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day – they would get their proof if they had eyes to see and ears to hear.

**Matthew 12:40** “For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

- The only sign you’ll get will be my death and my resurrection.

V: 31 Speaking of the Queen of Sheba - **1 Kings 10:1-9**

*“... behold a greater than Solomon is here.”*

- The queen of Sheba traveled up from Africa to see Solomon. She had heard of his splendor, his majesty, and his wisdom; she went away saying: “Wow, the half wasn’t even told me” – she was blown away.
- Solomon had wisdom from God. Jesus is the wisdom of God.
- Solomon was a great king, Jesus is the King of Kings.
- Solomon spoke practically to his nation; Jesus spoke powerfully to all nations and creation.
- Solomon gave Sheba all that she desired, Jesus is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we can ask or think.

*A greater than Solomon is in your midst, yet you do not respond.*

V: 32 In **Luke 10:12-15** Jesus pronounced woes upon certain cities and made a comparison to certain cities, and their respective fates, here He is comparing a nation to a nation. Nineveh / Assyria – Jerusalem / Israel.

- These pagan Gentile cities had willing hearts, willing to listen, willing to change.

**Matthew 11:15** “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

*“... behold a greater than Jonah is here.”*

- Jonah preached judgment; Jesus came preaching grace and mercy.
- Jonah was disobedient, Jesus came obediently.
- Jonah preached to one city, Jesus came to the whole world.

*A greater than Jonah is in your midst, yet you do not respond.*

V: 33 This is both an explanation and a transition:

- No man lights a candle to hide it, but to put it out where it can shed light – when the light is lit it is obvious to all who see it – this truth should be obvious to all who see and hear Jesus! He is the light of the world.

V: 34 If you don’t see these things it is because your eyes are dark, you don’t have eyes to see or ears to hear.

- It has been said that the eyes are the window to the soul.

*“The light of the body is the eye...”*

- If therefore thine eye be single – single minded, whole, wholly set upon the things of the Lord - then, they whole body shall be full of light.

- But: contrast – when thine eye be evil...
- “<sup>35</sup>*Take heed*” be careful of what enters through the eye gate, be careful what you look at, what we allow in.

**Colossians 3:2-5** “<sup>2</sup>Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. <sup>3</sup>For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. <sup>5</sup>Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry.”

**1 John 2:15-16** “<sup>15</sup>Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup>For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. <sup>17</sup>And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.”

V: 36 If we are full of light, we will shine brightly for Him!

**Ephesians 5:8** “For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:”

**Psalms 119:105** “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

**Psalms 119:130** “The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.”

V: 37 Jesus never refused an invitation to dinner, not from His friends, and not from those who would be His enemies – He always took advantage of the opportunities to share the truth wherever there was an opening.

- Jesus knew that they were going to try to bait and trap him:

Vv: 53-54 to provoke Him.... Laying wait for Him... accuse Him.

V: 38 This Pharisee marveled, he was shocked that Jesus didn't wash His hands.

- This washing is not one of hygiene; this washing was a ritual cleansing which had become a tradition.

**Exodus 30:18-21** “<sup>18</sup>Thou shalt make a laver of brass, and his foot also of brass, to wash withal: and thou shalt put it between the tabernacle of the congregation and the altar, and thou shalt put water therein. <sup>19</sup>For Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet thereat: <sup>20</sup>When they go into the tabernacle of the congregation, they shall wash with water, that they die not; or when they come near to the altar to minister, to burn

offering made by fire unto the Lord: <sup>21</sup>So they shall wash their hands and their feet, that they die not:..."

- According to the Law a ceremonial cleansing for the priests was required before they could begin their duties. Over time, the priests required it of the people, and even though it was "extra-Biblical" it became a law unto itself.

"Traditional" hand washing process:

1. A servant would pour 1-½ eggshells worth of water on priests' hands (or whoever) with the hands pointed upward.
  2. The water would not be allowed to flow past the wrists, as this would merely transfer the un-cleanness down the arm.
  3. A second 1 ½ egg shells worth of water would then be poured on the hands as they faced downward, rubbing the right palm over the left fist, then the left palm over the right fist.
- Jesus never broke the law, but the traditions of men were always up for grabs.

**Mark 7:6-9** <sup>6</sup>"He answered and said unto them well hath Isaiah prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, this people honoureth Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. <sup>7</sup>Howbeit in vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. <sup>8</sup>For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. <sup>9</sup>And he said unto them, full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition."

V: 39 Jesus points out that they are very focused on outward cleanliness, but have neglected inward cleanliness.

**Psalm 51:6** "Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom."

- **Tradition is external, truth is internal**, God looks at the heart.
- The real issue is that of the heart:

**Romans 10:9-10** *Believe* in our hearts.

**Matthew 22:37** *Love* with all our hearts.

**Romans 6:17** *Obey* in our hearts.

**Psalm 9:1** *Praise* Him from our hearts.

**2 Corinthians 9:17** *Give* from our hearts.

**Romans 2:28-29** *Circumcised* in our hearts.

**1 Samuel 16:7** "... for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart."

- **Tradition is external, truth is internal**, God looks at the heart.

- Jesus tells them their own hearts: that they are full of robbery & wickedness, because He's the only One who really knows their hearts.

**2 Chronicles 6:30** “Then hear thou from heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and render unto every man according unto all his ways, whose heart thou knowest; for thou only knowest the hearts of the children of men:”

**1 Chronicles 28:9** “... for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts:...”

V: 40-42 They needed to cleanse their hearts: Something that they couldn't do on their own.

**Psalms 51:7, 10** “<sup>7</sup>Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.” – “<sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.”

Later, Jesus would have the same conversation with Peter:

**Acts 10:9-16** “Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.” – “What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.”

- The Pharisees thought that because they tithed of all their stuff, being so exacting down to the herbs and spices from their gardens – that this made them righteous – but it was all an outward show.
- Jesus says “give alms” give to others, bless those around you, help people in need – which they weren't doing.

V: 43-44 Woe to you Pharisees – they enjoyed wearing their robes, the recognition, enjoying the reverence and deference that people would show them, choice seats – the perks of being looked upon as spiritual leaders.

**2 Timothy 3:5** “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”

- They were focused on their reputation as opposed to their character, placing reputation above character.
- Reputation is what people think we are; character is what God knows we are.
- Woe to you scribes, recorders of the Law, and Pharisees you are like graves – full of dead bones.

**Matthew 23:27-28** “<sup>27</sup>Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. <sup>28</sup>Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.”



- They were so careful not to be defiled, at least on the outside. To touch a grave was to become defiled and un-clean. Jesus was saying that they were like these graves, and that when people came into contact with them they were being defiled and unclean! (SLAM!)

V: 45 One of the lawyers spoke up and said “you are reproaching us?!”

**Ephesians 4:15** “But speaking the truth in love,....”

V: 46 You weigh people down with these burdens – and don’t lift a finger to lift them yourselves!

- They load them up with “grievous” or “heavy burdens” – religion is heavy: the opposite of what Jesus has in mind.

**Matthew 11:28-30** “<sup>28</sup>Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

**1 John 5:3** “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”

- The religious leaders had a false concept of ministry, handing down laws, adding to the burden. They were much harder on others than on themselves.
- Instead of making it easier for people to be right with God, they were making it harder – the opposite of what Jesus was doing.

V: 47-51 You decorate and venerate the tombs of the prophets – yet you have the same attitude as your fathers who killed them to begin with – you do the same thing.

- Historically the words of the prophets were rejected by the kings, the priesthood and scribes – meaning they rejected the word of God.
- Because they didn’t like the message they silenced the messengers by killing them.

The story of Cain & Abel is pretty well known.

Zacharias’ story is not as well known: **2 Chronicles 24**

1. Zacharias was the son of Jehoiada the High Priest. Israel is pretty low, Athaliah the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel married the king of Judah who then died and she became queen.
2. She set out to destroy all the descendants of David so that none would rise to the throne. She had many of David’s descendants killed, trying to wipe the

family out in direct opposition to the promises of God that one of his descendants would sit upon the throne.

3. One of the nurses took the infant Joash and hid him; they secretly raised him in the Temple until he was 7 years old.
  4. Then Jehoiada gathered the Levites around to protect Joash – and declared in the Temple that he was now the king of Judah. When Athaliah showed up she declared that this was treason, but they had her taken out of the Temple and executed.
  5. Jehoiada was then chief counselor to the king, he had a lot of influence, and they destroyed all the pagan altars to Baal and Ashtoreth – together they refurbished & purified the Temple and nation. During the years of Jehoiada they reinstated the worship God and prospered.
  6. Sadly when Jehoiada died, the young princes became Joash's counselors and the ones who influenced him away from God and back towards the worship of Baal and Ashtoreth.
  7. Zacharias, who was the son of Jehoiada saw this and rebuked Joash for reverting back to their pagan worship. Joash didn't want to hear the rebuke, didn't want to hear the Word of God and orders the murder of Zacharias. From then on the nation went into a downhill spiral.
- This generation would be held accountable or responsible for this great and similar sin.

**Jeremiah 23:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture saith the Lord! <sup>2</sup>Therefore thus saith the Lord God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; ye have scattered My flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doing, saith the Lord.

V: 52 They had the “key” – the Word of God that would lead people to have heaven.

- They didn't use it, nor would they let others – they hindered them with their religious burdens, with their traditions, and their misrepresentations of God.

**Jeremiah 50:6** “My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray,....”

**Ezekiel 34:2** “Son of man, prophecy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, thus saith the Lord God unto the shepherds; woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks?”

- If you want it done right.... Jesus ends up doing it.

**Jeremiah 23:3-4** <sup>3</sup>And I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. <sup>4</sup>And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the Lord.”

- One of the most beautiful things about the Bible is that it was intended for the average person to understand it.
- You don't have to go back to the original languages and all of that – it's a spiritual God breathed document and it will not return void.

**Nehemiah 8:5-8** <sup>5</sup>And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; for he was above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up: <sup>6</sup>And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. <sup>7</sup>Also Jeshua, and Bani, and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, caused the people to understand the law: and the people stood in their place. <sup>8</sup>So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.”

V: 53-54 Their whole purpose was to try to trip Jesus up to be able to accuse Him in some way – but they were no match for Jesus, all they accomplished was to reveal their own wicked hearts.