

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 which was an effective prayer life.
- Teach us “*to*” pray; not *how* to pray. How to pray may have been implied, but just to actually pray is just as important.
- 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 “⁵And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. ⁶But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place, and your Father who sees in secret, will reward you openly. ⁷And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.”

- Jesus is saying that prayer is not a show for other people, or to put ourselves on display, prayer isn't supposed 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 your mouth, and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; therefore let your words be few.”

V: 2 “*When you pray...*” there is a built in expectation that we will reach out to God in prayer in it's various forms, in worship and praise, in thanksgiving, in supplication, and intercession.

1. Worship & praise are kind of self explanatory. Expressing our adoration, praising Him for who He is, for His goodness and for His character, glorifying Him.
2. Thanksgiving: Being grateful and thankful, acknowledging where the blessings are coming from, that it's all from His hand.
3. Supplication: Humbly making request of God on our behalf; praying for God's favor and blessing for our selves. Admitting that we need His help.
4. Intercession: praying those same things on someone else's behalf. Praying God's favor and blessing on those around us. For our spouses, kids, co-workers, brothers and sisters in the Lord. President, governor, Iran, Israel.

Philippians 4:6-7 “⁶Be anxious / careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

1 Samuel 12:23 “Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pay for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way.”

James 5:16 “... The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”

“When you pray, say:”

“Our Father” addressing our Heavenly Father.

- **“Father”**- (G-3962) “Pater” - progenitor, “life giver” - (Hebrew) “Abba” - “Daddy” -“Papa”
- Use of this word is indicative of a personal relationship Vs Old Testament relationship.
 1. El Shaddai – “The Mighty One”
 2. Elohim – “The Strong One”
 3. Yahweh – The unspeakable word which means “I am that I am”.
 4. OT relationship was through a priest, through the Law & the sacrifices.

“Our Father...” is a personal term that implies relationship, it literally means “life giver.”

- This is not a name change. It's a change in relationship.

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

“*Our Father...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 “Be not rash with your mouth, and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; therefore let your 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.

“*Our Father in Heaven...*” - 1st - Properly addressing and directing our prayer.

“*Hallowed be Your name*” 2nd - Offering praise & worship - “*Hallowed be Your name.*” Holy is your name!

3rd commandment.

Exodus 20:7 “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain...”.

- That's not just don't use the name of God as a curse word, but also, don't use it frivolously, or irreverently. Always remembering who He is.
- **Hallowed:** (G-37) hagiazo, hag-ee-ad'-zo; to make holy, i.e. purify or consecrate; (mentally) to venerate:--hallow, be holy, sanctify.

Psalm 8:9 “O Lord our Lord, how excellent is Your 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 “⁹Therefore God also has highly exalted Him, and given Him the name which is above every name: ¹⁰That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; ¹¹And 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 no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

Psalm 99:3 “Let them praise Your great and awesome name; for it is Holy.”

- 1st properly directing our prayer, then giving thanks and praise, worship - then we come to the 1st petition.

“*Your Kingdom come*” – come quickly Lord Jesus. Maranatha!

Revelation 11:15 “Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”

- 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 testifies of these things says, surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!”

2nd Petition

“*Your will be done*”, God's will be done – still focused on Him!

- This acknowledges 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 transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you 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 You will.”

“*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.

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

V: 3 3rd petition – supplication - 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 “... you have not because you ask not.”

James 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes 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 to their cry.”

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

James 4:14-15 “¹⁴Whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.”

Matthew 6:34 “Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

“*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 comes to Me shall never hunger; and he that believes on Me shall never thirst.” (practical & spiritual application)

Matthew 4:4 “...it is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from 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.”

- Spiritual food & practical food & needs as well. God takes care of His children.

Proverbs 30:7-9 “⁷Two things I request of You (deprive me not before I die)”.
⁸Remove falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches - feed me with the food allotted to me; ⁹lest I be full and deny You, and say, “who is the LORD?” Or lest I be poor and steal, and profane the name of my God.”

Matthew 6:25-26 “²⁵Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?”

V: 4 “*Forgive us our sins*” (It seems like there is always a need for that.)

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 “¹Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ²Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.”

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

“As we forgive our debtors” (Matthew)

- This is a pledge to extend forgiveness to others for their sins against us and for debts owed us.
- Forgiveness received and forgiveness extended is an important component of our Christian faith.

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 “¹²Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.”

Matthew 6:14-15 “¹⁴For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

- Is that a scary verse for anyone else besides me?

“... *and do not lead us into temptation...*”

- “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 does He tempt any man.”

James 1:14-15 “¹⁴But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away by his own desires, and enticed. ¹⁵Then when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin: and sin, when it is full grown, brings forth death.”

- God will always give us a way out of sin, if we’ll take it.

“... *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 has no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that you 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 pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace, with those that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

Vv:2-4

Continuing 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. The kids are all konked out. You can tell the older kids to go back to sleep, but the little ones....?

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)

At another teaching on prayer:

Luke 18:1-5 “¹Then He spake a parable to them, that men ought always to pray, and not to loose heart, ²saying: “There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. ³Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, get justice for me from my adversary.” ⁴And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, though I do not fear God nor regard man, ⁵yet because this widow troubles 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.”

Romans 15:30 “Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and  through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me.”

- 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.

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

V: 9-10 Ask, seek, knock. / Given, find, opened

“*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 each of the asking, the seeking and the knocking the idea is to keep asking, to keep seeking, and to keep knocking until there is an answer.

James 4:2-3 “² ... Yet you have not because you ask not. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.”

- He that seeks finds:

“*seek*” (G-2212) “zeteo” - to seek after, to look for, striving to find.

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

- To him that knocks, it shall be opened:

“*knocks*” (G-2925) “krouo” - to knock or to pound on a door.

- Again, the idea is that of persistence, to keep asking, to keep seeking, to keep knocking - not giving up, pressing on.

Philippians 3:13-14 “¹³Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴press toward the goal for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

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

Jesus assures us:

“¹⁰*For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.*” (Don't give up, don't stop praying.)

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.

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

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

- It is reasonable and normal 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: 1st Earthly – lowly / 2nd Heavenly – Godly.

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

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

Romans 8:31-32 “³¹What shall we then say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He 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 – the gift of the Holy Spirit!

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

- To those that simply ask Him – we can receive the Holy Spirit and the baptism of the Holy Spirit just by asking! That’s a whole another Bible study.

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” - the Lord of the flies or Lord of the dung hill – through the power of Satan.

Parallel account:

Matthew 12:22-24 “²²Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind, and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. ²³And all the multitudes were amazed and said “could this be the Son

of David?” (Messiah?) ²⁴But when the Pharisees heard if they said, “this fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.””

- Matthew not only adds that this man was also blind, but he also tells us who the accusers were. His accusers were the Pharisees – who would rather have them blind and dumb, than be healed!
- As Jesus will point out, their accusation makes no sense. Then to add to this insult they ask Him to show them a sign from “*heaven*” – as opposed to the “lowly - earthly” miracle they had just seen.
- They 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.
- Then Jesus reasonably asks “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 “¹³Then 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 preaches. ¹⁴And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. ¹⁵And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you? ¹⁶And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.”

V: 20 Two points: “*The* (flee flicking) *finger of God*” meaning the ease with which God casts out demons, easily as with one finger, flicking a flea. Doing something that is impossible for men to do, the sons of Sceva being a good example.

- God, Jesus, is omnipotent, all power on Earth and in Heaven is given to Him..

Matthew 28:18 “... all power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth.”

- Expressing His deity:

“*the kingdom of God has come upon you.*” - “you are in the presence of God”

Matthew 3:2 “Repent for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”

V: 21-22 Jesus points out that there is always someone bigger, badder, and stronger.

(At one point every world champion boxer is defeated, Muhamed Ali, Mike Tyson, big bad Leroy Brown...)

- In this case, the strong man is Satan who was defeated in Matthew 4:1-11.

Matthew 4:1-11 (Turn to)

- Jesus has since gone around spoiling his goods, then again ultimately at the cross.
- Even the “strong man” and all his armor are no match for the enemy, it is the Lord that gives us the victory.

Isaiah 49:24-26 “²⁴Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the captives of the righteous be delivered? ²⁵But thus says the LORD: Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible be delivered; for I will contend with him who contends with you, and I will save your children. ²⁶I will feed those who oppress you with their own flesh, and they shall be drunk with their own blood, as with sweet wine. All flesh shall know that I, the LORD, am your Savior, and your 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 show 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 you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

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?

(Turn to:)

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

2 Corinthians 10:4 “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds.”

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, the unfaithful.

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 into the demonic realm, 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!
- As with nature, the spiritual realm abhors a vacuum - we’re going to be filled with something, either the Spirit of God, or the spirit of the world.
- 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? Un-hospitable, 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?”

- 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 “¹⁹While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought into bondage. ²⁰For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior 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 “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.”

2 Corinthians 6:14 “Be not un-equally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion has 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 gently makes the correction.

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 “⁴⁹And He stretched forth His hand toward His disciples, and said, behold My mother and My brethren! ⁵⁰For 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 and a relationship that only one person could fulfill, but Jesus redirects the focus to a relationship that any of us can engage in if we so choose.

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 comes 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: Jesus isn’t going to jump through their hoops or play their game. He truly is no respecter of persons.
- Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale – in the grave, then spat out / resurrected on the 3rd day – they would get their proof if they had eyes to see and ears to hear.

Matthew 12:40 “For as Jonah 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 that you’ll get will be my death and my resurrection.

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

- 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.
- She won’t condemn them directly; her testimony, her presence, faith without saying another word will be condemnation enough!

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

- 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.

- The fact that the Ninevites repented at the preaching of Jonah is in itself a testimony against the nation of Israel who refused to repent even at the greater ministry and testimony of Jesus.
- 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.** (Shame on you!)

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 – the truth should be obvious to all who see and hear Jesus! He is the light of the world.

John 1:14 “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

- The light was shining out in the open, we beheld His glory - but sadly:

John 3:19 “And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”

V: 34 This speaks of attitude, how we see or perceive information. The filter through which we see things, the prejudices that we apply, both positive and negative.

- It has been said that the eyes are the window to the soul.
- If you have eyes to see and ears to hear, a willing heart, then your eye is good and you'll be full of light.
- If you don't, then the opposite is true and you'll filter out the light and only the darkness will get in and you'll be full of darkness.

“The light of the body is the eye...”

- *“If therefore thine eye be single”* KJV – single minded, whole, wholly set upon the things of the Lord - then, your whole body shall be full of light.
- But: contrast – when your eye is evil...

V: 35 *“Take heed”* - “be careful” - “watch out” - this implies that we have a choice, we choose and determine whether we're going to be a child of the light, or a child of darkness. We choose to have an attitude of light and receive the light, or an attitude of darkness and reject the light.

- Like the parable of the 4 soils, we can choose which soil were going to be which will determine if we produce fruit or not.

“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 *“2Set your mind on things above not on things on the earth.*

3For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. 5Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.”

1 John 2:15-16 *“15Love 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. 16For 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. 17And the world is passing away, and the lust thereof: but he that does the will of God abides forever.”*

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

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

Matthew 5:16 *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”*

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.

Luke 14:1 “Now it happened, as He went into the house of one of the rulers of the Pharisees to eat bread on the Sabbath, that they watched Him closely.”

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

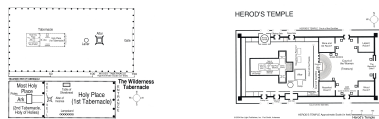
Vv: 53-54 to provoke Him.... Laying wait for Him... seeking to accuse Him.

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

- Cultural / modern - activity just prior to eating.
- This washing was not one of physical hygiene; this was a ritual cleansing which had become a man made religious tradition.

Exodus 30:17-21 “¹⁷Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ¹⁸You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base also of bronze, for washing, you shall put it between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar. And you shall put water in it, ¹⁹for Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet in water from it. ²⁰When they go into the tabernacle of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister, to burn an offering made by fire to the LORD they shall wash with water, lest they die. ²¹So they shall wash their hands and their feet, lest they die. And it shall be a statute forever to them - to him and his descendants throughout their generations.”

- 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. (man made religious tradition)
- Who had actual access to the bronze laver just outside the Tabernacle / Temple doors?



“Traditional” hand washing process:

1. A servant would pour 1-½ eggshells worth of water on priests' hands 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 “⁶He answered and said unto them well has Isaiah prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, this people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. ⁷Howbeit in vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. ⁸For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such things you do. ⁹And he said to them, full well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your own tradition.”

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

Psalm 51:6 “Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part You shall 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 sees not as man sees; for man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks 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 greed & wickedness, He can say that because He’s the only One who really knows their hearts.

Solomon’s prayer:

2 Chronicles 6:30 “Then hear from heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive, and give to everyone according to all his ways, whose heart You know (for You alone know the hearts of he sons of men:)”

1 Chronicles 28:9 “... for the Lord searches all hearts, and understands all the imaginations of the thoughts:...”

V: 40-42 They needed to cleanse their hearts: Something that neither they nor we could do on our own. We need Jesus to cleanse our hearts.

For that reason:

Exodus 40:12-13 “¹²Then you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the door of the tabernacle of meeting and wash them with water. ¹³You shall put the holy garments on Aaron, and anoint him and consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest.”

David prayed:

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

- 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. That would be indicative of a real heart change.
- They were washing the outside of the cup, but not the inside.

Matthew 23:27 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness.”

V: 43-44 Woe to you Pharisees – they enjoyed wearing their robes, getting 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 and status above character.
- Reputation is what people think we are; character is what God knows we are.
- Woe to you scribes, records of the Law, and Pharisees you are like graves – full of dead bones.

Matthew 23:28 “Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”

- 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 the graves that they were trying so hard to avoid. He was saying that when people came into contact with them they were being defiled and unclean! (SLAM!). They were a defiling, corrupting influence.

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 “*Woe to you also lawyers...*” YES! I am reproaching you!

- You weigh people down with these heavy religious burdens – and don’t lift a finger to do them yourselves!
- Religion is heavy: the complete opposite of what Jesus has in mind.

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

- 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, rejecting the Word of God.

“⁴⁹*Therefore the wisdom of God also said...*” Is this the Holy Spirit? It is the Word of God” which was rejected by their fathers and now by them.

- 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, brought him to Jehoiada the priest, they hid him; and 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. During the years of Jehoiada they re-instituted the worship God and prospered.
 6. Sadly when Jehoiada the priest 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 ordered the murder of Zacharias. From then on the nation went into a downhill spiral.
- This present generation would be held accountable or responsible for this great and similar sin.

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

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

- 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 have been lost sheep. Their shepherds have led them astray,…”

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

- There’s the old adage, “if you want it done right....” Jesus ends up doing it right.

Jeremiah 23:3-4 ³And 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. ⁴And 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, says 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 “⁵And 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: ⁶And 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. ⁷Also Jeshua, and Bani, and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, (the priests) and the Levites, caused the people to understand the law: and the people stood in their place. ⁸So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17 “¹⁶All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Romans 10:17 “So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.”

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.

Psalm 37:32-33 “³²The wicked watches the righteous, and seeks to slay him, ³³The LORD will not leave him in his hand, nor condemn him when he is judged.”