

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE



*glimpses
of glory*

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MUSIC: SHAWN HOELSCH

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Jesus Refutes Opposition and Slander Luke 11:14-26

Attempting to diffuse Jesus' popularity, the Pharisees and scribes aim to discredit his obvious power. (vv. 14-16)

3 Responses:

1. Amazement – the watching crowd is thrilled
Luke 11:14 Now he was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled.
2. Accusation – Satan and Jesus are on the same team
Luke 11:15 But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons,"
3. Unwarranted testing – divided hearts defend their indecision
Luke 11:16 while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven.

Jesus meets both challenges squarely and with crushing effect. (vv. 17-23)

1. No kingdom ruler would ever, in his right mind, work against himself.
Luke 11:17 But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. **18** And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul.
2. You cannot ascribe identical outcomes to opposite causes.
Luke 11:19 And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore, they will be your judges.
3. Therefore, Jesus is clearly from God.
Luke 11:20 But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Ex. 8:19 Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

4. Jesus' complete victory over Satan and his kingdom leaves no room for a neutral response.

Luke 11:21 When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; **22** but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. **23** Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

Jesus concludes by indicting his unbelieving opposition: All are accountable to revealed truth. (vv. 24-26)

Luke 11:24 "When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' **25** And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. **26** Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first.

Reflection/Discussion

1. In what ways do you see the same 3 responses to Jesus' power, (11:14-16), play out today? What reasons do people give for rejecting or dismissing Jesus?
2. Are there areas in your life where you are finding it difficult to trust Jesus? Are you looking for additional "signs" in order to bolster your confidence? How can you utilize both scripture and your personal history with Jesus to counter this attitude?
3. Re-read Luke 11:21-23. Do you live your life actively "with" Jesus? What does that look like? Are you partnering with him in "gathering" for the Kingdom? How can you grow in prioritizing Kingdom work?

SONGS

"HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US"

"YES AND AMEN"

"BUILD MY LIFE"

"IN CHRIST ALONE"

Altamont Music Pastor: Shawn Hoelsch (shawn@vbc.online)

Behold Podcast: vbc.online/behold

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Y-T-D GIVING: \$1,188,654.39

Y-T-D GENERAL NEED: \$1,331,460.00

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