

*A LIGHT RESPONSE | LUKE 11:14-36 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 01/18/2025

I. Authority of Light Revealed (14-23) | II Danger of Light Resisted (24-28) | III. Responsibility of Light Received (29-36)

INTRO: Last week we learned that prayer aligns us with the heart and will of our Father... teaching us how to **Ask, Seek, and Knock** in faith. – **Today**, Luke shows us what happens after we pray: We are confronted with the Light of Christ and must decide how we will Respond. Prayer opens our mouths to God... **but now Jesus presses a deeper question: Will we Receive the Light we've been given, or Resist it?...** *

I. THE AUTHORITY OF LIGHT REVEALED (14-23) – **READ (14-16):** *Jesus confronts darkness by divine power.* Though His power is evident, those in darkness cannot comprehend His light! *In fact, He brings...*

A. A Deliverance That Divides (14) – *Jesus casts out a MUTE demon*, revealing his **AUTHORITY** over darkness. – When the formerly mute man speaks, it amazes the crowds! – **Note:** The demon was the cause of the man's muteness.

- *Cast out a Demon/Evil Spirits* – In the Gospels, I find ****12 instances where Jesus did so.**
- **Casting out demons** was part of Jesus' mission to Set People Free (cf. Luke 4:18), among other ways. – However, the deliverance of the mute man was not celebrated on this occasion, but rather rejected...

B. A Rejection That Distorts (15-16) – In fact, *the crowd attributes God's work... to Satan!* – Some even demanded further signs to prove Himself. – Only a **dark mind** can come to such a conclusion! (John 12:35b) says, “...he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going.”

1. Some were Doubters and Disbelievers (15) – These even accused Jesus of casting out demons by the power of BEELZEBUB. – Who is Beelzebub? – The name stems from an older deity worshipped in Philistine cities, i.e., the god of Ekron {Baal-zebul}, i.e., prince of Baal (cf. 2 Kings 1:2-16).

- **Use of the Title indicated a Derogatory Attack on Jesus**, by twisting the name to **"Beelzebub,"** meaning "Lord of the Flies" or "Lord of Dung," to associate Jesus with evil and filth. – By Jesus's time, **Beelzebub** became a widely understood name for Satan, the ruler of the demonic realm. (...who really is the lord of dung!)

2. Some Sought for a Special Sign (16) – They sought to **TEST Jesus by demanding a sign from heaven** as proof of His Authority. – Something far greater than making a mute man speak again. **Something of cosmological proportions**, something that all can see and know. – Paul tells us that, *The Jews request a sign, and the Greek seek after wisdom.* (1 Cor 1:22)

P/A – Their Response revealed their Distorted Perspective of Jesus Christ! – The Light of the Messiah **OVERPOWERED** the Darkness of the demonic realm before their very eyes. But these could not distinguish a **Work of God** from a **Work of Satan!** (Dark thinking) – Rather than Rejoicing in the Light of the Messiah, their Rebellion would only Lead to Misery! *Though Jesus knew this about them, He continued to SHED LIGHT on them...*

C. A Kingdom That Decides (17-23) – **READ:** Jesus then refuted their blind rationale by **addressing their distorted conclusions using simple logic.** – *He presents three responses* which target...

1. **Their Irrational Thinking (17)** – Jesus presents a fact of matter... **EVERY Kingdom or House DIVIDED against itself, will not stand!** – *This applied on a nation level but the particular emphasis here is the Spiritual level!*
 - Jesus knew that the Jewish Nation has been DIVIDED since the time of Jeroboam (1 Kings 11-12); they are still awaiting fulfillment of prophecies for complete reunification, (Isa 2,11,62; Matt 24:31; Rev 20:4-6)

- Jesus's statement destroyed their faulty logic and further challenged...

2. Their Impossible Deduction (18-19) – If Jesus was working for Satan, then **WHY would He be working AGAINST Satan, by setting the man free from oppression!** – **Simply Put:** Why would Satan **DESTROY** his own kingdom? – **Bruce** comments, **"Satan may be wicked... but he is no fool!"** – **Bruce**

- In (v.19) **Jesus makes another point** by mention of **the work of certain Jewish Exorcists, i.e., "their sons"**... who claimed **POWER** to cast out demons (cf. Acts 19:13-15). – If such power was present with them, then their actions were to be scrutinized as well.
- Jesus said **these Jews would be their judges** and **prove them wrong** in **their accusation of Jesus**.

3. Their Ignorance of God's Kingdom (20-23) – Jesus' statement (v.20) challenges them to **RECONSIDER their position!** – **"If I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom has come upon you."** – His Authority shines upon them like BRIGHT LIGHT, demanding **A LIGHT RESPONSE** as if to say... So then, **WHAT DO YOU CHOOSE...** the **Kingdom of Light** or the **Kingdom for Darkness?** – **He then provides an illustration to drill home his point...**

- a. **Strong Man Illustration (v.21-22)** – By casting out demons through the **"finger of God,"** He proves that **He IS the "Stronger One", who has overpowered Satan, the "strong man,"** and is plundering his kingdom. – This is evident through scripture. – **(1 John 3:8b) ...For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.** – **(Col 2:15) Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.**
- b. **Summarizing Statement (v.23)** – The conclusive reality is that **you are either for or against Jesus; there is no middle ground!** – Those with Jesus, **GATHER "sunago",** which means to assemble or bring together; we get the word **synagogue** for this. – But the word for **SCATTERS "skorpizo",** means to disperse or fly in every direction. **(There is no such thing as being neutral in the fight against the forces of darkness!)**

P/A – The Authority of Light Has Been Revealed! – If Jesus is better than Satan, then who will we partner with? – **Everyone has to make a choice...You can choose LIGHT or you can choose lightly!**

II. THE DANGER OF LIGHT RESISTED (24-28) – The next section demonstrates how **Rejecting Christ** results in a deeper state of darkness and how **Remaining Neutral** can lead to being misguided in life.

A. An Empty House Vulnerable to Evil (24-26) – **READ:** Jesus expounds on **the wanderings of a demon who had been cast out of its host** (24) – Its tendency is to find another body to possess. But when it fails to find one, **it circles back to its original host!** – Jesus explains that **if the spirit finds the house EMPTY, i.e., "swept and put in order"** (25), it returns and **makes the person's final state worse than the first** (26).

1. The illustration depicts a person who has been freed from a demon but has not yet received Jesus! – They are **EMPTY** and remain **NEUTRAL!** – They claim not to support Satan, yet they also oppose Jesus.
2. **This illustration served as a warning to the Jews who kept Resisting the Light of Christ!** – Matthew's account specifically adds, **"So shall it be with this wicked generation"** (Matt 12:45b)
 - The telling of this parable teaches that **merely getting rid of evil (reformation)** without **Filling the Void with God's presence (regeneration)** leads to a worse final state! (*It's not even a gamble!*)
 - In **(John 8:12b)** Jesus declared **"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life."** – Sadly, **so many resist Jesus' Light**, which results in a **door open to the influence of demons, and the philosophies of man**, which eventually **DESTROYS** homes (Matt 8:26-27).

P/A – Reformation without Regeneration just makes things Darker! – Moral reform without Submission to Christ results in Greater Bondage... Just Look Around! – This is The Danger of a Spiritually Empty House!

B. An Erroneous Commendation (27) – **READ:** Continuing with the theme of this section, **Luke** mentions a certain woman who praises Jesus indirectly through His mother Mary rather than responding personally.

- Her comment, though sincere was somewhat misfocused, pronouncing a metaphoric **BLESSING** on Mary's body parts, which helped nurture baby Jesus. – The sense seems to be, "Jesus, You are so wonderful that Your mother must be a very blessed woman." – Elizabeth attested to this (Luke 1:42b)
- Jesus did not deny that His mother was **Blessed** for having raised Him, but neither did He venerate her to an elevated status, as some denominations practice. – (Luke 1:42a) says that "**Mary was blessed among women,**" but not above women! – Jesus added to her Commendation with...

C. An Exclamation of True Blessedness (28) – Jesus redirects the woman to refocus – The Mild Reprove by Jesus was, "**More than that** [Yes, but rather], **BLESSED are those who HEAR THE WORD OF GOD AND KEEP IT!**" – Jesus denounces any worship of Mary and proclaims greater responsibility to spiritual relationship! – Those who maintain a right relationship with God... are the **TRULY BLESSED!**

P/A – We just learned that a life "cleaned up" but NOT filled with the Holy Spirit, remains vulnerable to even greater evil (24-26). – But (vv. 27-28) teaches us that Choosing Jesus is more than just saying the right things! – We can **SAY** "Amen" and "Halleluiah", but if we are NOT Hearers and Doers of God's Word, we deceive ourselves (Jam 1:22). – This is the Danger of Light Resisted! Now we see...

III. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LIGHT RECEIVED (29-36) – This final section exposes How one responds to Light... actually Reveals the heart!

A. A Sign Sufficient for Faith (29-32) – **READ:** The parallel passage to this is found in (Matt 12:38-42)

1. The Request for a Sign (29) – An evil generation seeks a sign. – He called them and **EVIL** because these religious leaders and crowds had already witnessed His miracles. – His address to them was simple: The Sign had already been given and is found in the life of **Jonah the Prophet** – What is it? It is the **Death, Burial, and Resurrection**, which would prove that Jesus Christ is the Messiah! (cf. Matt 12:40; Jonah 1:17).

- The fact that they continued seeking a sign demonstrated the hardness of their unbelieving hearts!

2. The Reality of CONTRAST between Jonah and Jesus (30) – As Jonah became a **SIGN to the Ninevites**, so Jesus was a **SIGN to the Evil Generation** before Him. – Jonah was literally Resurrected and proclaimed God's Word to the Ninevites! – So too, Jesus would soon be Resurrected for the Sign they needed to Receive!

- If they failed to believe in the Resurrection, then a greater Judgment would fall upon them as see next...

3. The Response and JUDGMENT of Gentiles (31-32) – Jesus contrasts THEIR Lack of Faith with The Queen of the South and the men of Nineveh (Gentiles). – Both Responded to the Light Received! –

- As a result, Jesus makes clear that [these Gentiles] will RISE UP and CONDEMN that generation because they repented at less compelling wisdom and preaching. (They turned from Pride and Sin!)

P/A – Jesus closes His thought with "a double emphasis," indicating a Greater Degree of Responsibility and Judgment! – He said, "**ONE Greater than Solomon and Jonah was there!**" – **Messiah** was in their midst, and they couldn't see the light! – (tt. 13:34-35). – Furthermore, this was all foretold! **READ:** (tt. John 12:36-41)

B. A Light Meant to Be Seen (33) – **READ:** *This is the parable of the lit lamp.* – This was mentioned once before by Jesus (8:16), but **NOW** His teaching is tied to the previous one about Rejecting Jesus, the True Light.

- **Jesus emphasizes that His Work and His Word is LIGHT, it is TRUTH openly displayed for all to see!**
- **Jesus identifies the problem is NOT a lack of light but "unhealthy eyes," i.e., Spiritual Blindness** which is caused by hardened hearts.
- He then transitions into a teaching about the "*lamp of the body,*" which is...

C. An Eye That Determines the Body (34–36) – **READ:** Jesus knows that **The Human Eye** is not only for seeing **what's around us**, but it is such a Crucial Organ that is also used to **FILTER what is within us!**

1. The Condition of Health (34) – **SPIRITUAL PERCEPTION** determines whether we Walk in Light or in Darkness.

- a. A Healthy Eye (Good/Clear):** When the eye is focused on spiritual truth (i.e., Jesus' teachings about the Kingdom), **then the Whole Person (body, mind, actions) is Filled with Light!** (cf. Eph 5:8-14) *Walk in the light!*
- b. An Unhealthy Eye (Bad/Dark):** If the eye is turned toward darkness (self-deception, sin, worldly desires), **the Whole Person is filled with darkness**, leading to moral and spiritual confusion.

- **This speaks of the spiritual condition of our heart!** – **Spiritual Blindness** is caused by **Hard Hearts**, which **leads to Darkness!** – “*If you do not see Jesus, it is not because He has hidden Himself in darkness, but because Your eyes are blinded.*” – Spurgeon

2. The Warning (35) is to **TAKE HEED** that the light we allow to enter our eyes is not darkness! – This involves **PERSONAL EXAMINATION**, (2 Cor 13:5), *Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?* – unless indeed you are disqualified.

3. The Practice of Yielding to Light (36) will result in not partaking of darkness, which assures that our body will be full of light! – **This is our Personal Responsibility of the Light Received.**

CLOSING THOUGHTS: **Jesus is the true Light!** – His Authority exposes darkness, His Warning confronts indecision, and His **Call demands A LIGHT RESPONSE!** – (2 Cor 4:6) *For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

- **How to you Respond to the Light of the World?**
- **Is there any part of you that you know to be darkness? What must you do to get rid of it?**
- **How Responsible are your with Shining the Light of Christ around you neighbors?**