



SERMON REFLECTION GUIDE

Luke, Part 38: The Light Internal - Luke 11:1-12:12 - August 10, 2025

SERMON OUTLINE

Intro - Dog Days (of summer, of Luke) - long passage today!

In an extended passage that seems to be rooted in the lawyer's question: "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" (Luke 10:25)

Is the essence of eternal life - (a) an *external*, moral matter solved by our effort, or (b) an *internal*, transformation matter solved by the Holy Spirit?

Section 1: Luke 11:1-13 - The Model Prayer and a Prayer Parable

- (A) The "Model Prayer" is not a model that is followed very often.
- (B) A contrast between caving to an impudent demand vs. the good gift of a Father.
- (C) Ask, Seek, Knock - and the Father will "give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (v. 13)

Section 2: Luke 11:14-32 - The Soul as a House to be Filled, and Demands for Signs

- (A) Jesus' opponents attack from two strange angles - (a) suggesting that Jesus is in league with the devil, and (b) demanding that Jesus give a sign to verify his ministry.
- (B) The idea that Jesus and Satan are in league together is preposterous.
- (C) Rather, the person has a soul that is like a house - the house might be dominated by a "strong man" (Satan, sin, death), UNTIL the "stronger man" (Jesus) liberates it.
- (D) However, the soul-house must not be left empty, or simply "swept and put in order" (v. 25) — an allusion to the morality of the Pharisees — but filled with the Spirit so that the wicked tenants do not return.
- (E) Jesus as the greater Solomon and greater Jonah - the prize for those who "ask, seek, knock" with repentance and faith.

Section 3: Luke 11:33-36 - The Light Internal

- (A) Our soul-house is dark, and only Jesus is the light. The light comes in to expose our sinfulness and illuminate us unto salvation.
- (B) The Pharisees make a pretty "basket" (v. 33), but it hides the light. This is another allusion to morality that masks a darkened heart unchanged by Jesus.

Section 4: Luke 11:37-12:3 - Woe to Pharisees and Their Leaven, which is Hypocrisy

- (A) Jesus dines with a Pharisee, but does not follow his extra-biblical requirements for pre-meal washings. This elicits a pained response from the "ultra-holy" Pharisee.
- (B) Jesus eviscerates the Pharisee through series of "Woes" - prophetic judgments.
- (C) They respond with feelings rather than facts (v. 45), but Jesus continues his tongue-lashing for their *hypocrisy* which not only exposes them as dead agents, but the even worse sin of defiling the consciences of their followers (v. 44, 52)
- (D) Just as their religious fathers killed the prophets (v. 47-48), the Pharisees and lawyers now plot ways to entrap Jesus. (v. 53-54)

Section 5: Luke 12:4-12 - Don't Fear the Pharisees, but Acknowledge God

- (A) People were afraid of the Pharisees and intimidated by their requirements, but Jesus puts them at ease by telling them that they are of value before God.
- (B) The section ends with references to the Holy Spirit once again (v. 10, 12) - the agent of internal transformation in a person.

Conclusion: The Heaven Ride, Getting Taller (or Shorter) and Philippians 3:5-9
Chunk the pretty basket and let Jesus' light shine!



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Do your prayers center on God's glory and forgiveness for sin? Are we asking, seeking, knocking for God to give us the gift of the Holy Spirit?
2. What are the two ways that opponents seek to discredit Jesus? Why are both ridiculous?
3. What is Jesus after in v. 24-26? What is an empty, well-cleaned house?
4. What are some of the rebukes that Jesus has for the Pharisees? How can we be guilty of similar hypocrisy?
5. How does Paul's exclamation in Philippians 33 give us a blueprint for how to regard our pedigree and morality up against knowing Jesus Christ?