

# Welcome to: - Bible House of Grace.



*God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.*

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## Luke 11.

(2013)

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The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

***Teach it, don't demand it.***

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## Luke 11.

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### Topics.

- Jesus teaches the disciples how to pray.
- Forgiveness and repentance.
- Ask, seek and knock and it will be given you.
- Jesus cast out demons by the power of Beelzebub.
- Every kingdom divided against itself falls.
- When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man.
- The sign of Jonah.
- The Queen of the south and the men of Nineveh.
- Lighting a lamp and hiding its light under a basket.
- Your eye is the lamp of your body.
- Give as alms those things that are within and everything is clean.
- Six woes of the Pharisees.

### The Previous Chapter.

In the previous chapter Jesus appointed seventy-two disciples and gave them power to heal every kind of sickness. He told them that whoever hears them hears Christ and the one who rejects them rejects Christ and sent them out ahead of him two by two. Jesus rebuked Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum saying woe to the three of them and told a lawyer the parable of the Good Samaritan.

**NOTE:** for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

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### Jesus Teaches the Disciples How to Pray.

Luke 11:1-4 ----- <sup>1</sup>Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." <sup>2</sup>And he said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. <sup>3</sup>Give us each day our daily bread, <sup>4</sup>and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation."

**Father, hallowed be your name:** (v2) when we come to God in prayer we approach Him with a deep feeling and attitude of honour and respect being fully conscious that His name and His character is holy.

**Your Kingdom come:** (v2) there should always be a desire in the heart of all who belong to Christ to see God's Kingdom come not only in the eternal world to come when Christ returns but also to see His Kingdom come in their own personal lives while waiting in patience for Jesus return as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice joy and peace on earth.

**Give us each day our daily bread:** (v3) every day God's people should be conscious that their lives are totally dependent on God for what is needed not only to keep them mortally alive but also eternally saved to eternal life.

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive everyone indebted to us** (v4): Jesus told the twelve, if they do not forgive, neither will their Father which is in heaven forgive them their trespasses (Mark 11:25-26) it is absolutely imperative to forgive.

**NOTICE:** Jesus does not add, "Providing they repent" this forgiveness is independent of the other person's response, for the following two reasons: -

1. God freely grants to everyone in Christ forgiveness and righteousness every-day. Everyone who has eternal life is totally indebted to God, simply because without the righteousness that God grants to them because of their faith in Christ none of us would be counted worthy. Added to this there is nothing we can do to repay God for the life of His Son or repay Christ for his suffering.
2. God wants to set us free from the mental torment that comes with unforgiveness, but he can only do it when we forgive. If we do not forgive whoever offends us bitterness, hatred and a craving for revenge (i.e. to see the other person suffer) will take hold of our hearts and fill it with every other destructive attitude and in extreme cases even murder. Added to this as long as we remain in unforgiveness we continue to allow the person we are not forgiving to have control over our thoughts and our hearts and that will hurt us mentally and emotionally and rob us spiritually.

The Spirit of God (i.e., joy, peace and contentment cannot dwell in a human heart that is filled with bitterness, the lust for revenge and hatred). Forgiveness keeps our hearts free from all these destructive attitudes such is its tremendous healing power.

### **Forgiveness and Repentance.**

Jesus heart is always open and ready to forgive whoever comes to him in repentance, his heart is continually overflowing with forgiveness, but only those who come to him in repentance enter the family of God. The following verses show that it is a Bible principle, that before forgiveness can be received and a broken relationship healed a person must acknowledge (confess) their wrongdoing.

God in the Old Testament said: -

- If Israel confesses their iniquity that they committed against me and if their uncircumcised heart is humbled and they make amends for their iniquity then I will remember my covenant with Jacob, with Isaac and with Abraham, and I will remember the land (meaning bless it) (Lev 26:40-42).

David when speaking of himself in Psalms says: -

- I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin (Psalm 32:5).

And in the New Testament the apostle John says: -

- If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Added to what God, David and John say God's forgiveness though permanently available to everyone through Jesus is only realised when a sinner comes to Christ in repentance and sorrow.

If a person does not acknowledge their wrong doing how can they possibly be sorry for the hurt they have caused? Even more how can they put right something they don't acknowledge is wrong, thus God's forgiveness is always available, forever flowing, but confessing ones wrong actions is required before it can be received and experienced in the heart.

In some cases when possible restitution may be required to help repair the hurt caused to others. True repentance would automatically bring about this desire in the heart. Restitution in most cases may simply be saying sorry to the person offended or to God.

## **Forgiveness and Trust.**

Trust is different to forgiveness, trust must be rebuilt over time it requires a track record if someone has hurt you repeatedly, you are commanded by God to forgive them, but you are not expected to trust them immediately they must prove they have changed over time.

A person may forgive another but that does not always mean that they will become a bosom friend or even have contact with the person who is forgiven, in many cases that would be foolishness, (i.e. a girl who has been raped will have to forgive to set her own heart free from the hurt and bitterness and everything that stems from it, but she would be foolish to have immediate contact with the man who raped her until that man had proven he could be trusted).

Forgiveness is never easy because it always involves forgiving someone who has hurt or offended us, to overcome the reluctance to forgive it is helpful to look at Jesus who though we were sinners against God was prepared to be cruelly nailed to the cross, and even more while in tremendous suffering he prayed, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:32-34).

There is no malice in the heart of Christ only love and if we are to have a deeper relationship with God we cannot do it with malice in our hearts. Take the hurt and pain to God and forgive and the Lord will free you from the torment.

## **Lead us not into Temptation.**

Jesus words, "Pray the LORD does not lead us not into temptation" (v4) is not implying that God leads people into temptation we know this because James writes, "Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one (James 1:13). God lead us not into temptation carries the idea of protecting us from circumstances that might tempt us to sin and even worse cause us to fall away.

## **Ask, Seek and Knock and it will be Given You.**

Luke 11:5-12 ----- <sup>5</sup>And he said to them, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, <sup>6</sup>for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; <sup>7</sup>and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything'? <sup>8</sup>I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. <sup>9</sup>And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. <sup>11</sup>What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; <sup>12</sup>or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup>If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Jesus words, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened." Is often used by religious prosperity teachers to support their misleading teaching that if those in Christ have enough faith they can attain wealth and riches, all they have to do is ask, seek and knock until it comes their way, but this is certainly not what Jesus has in mind.

Asking, seeking and knocking refers to the Holy Spirit (v13) the focus is salvation. Jesus is saying, for someone to find God they have to have a heart that earnestly seeks after Him.

Asking, seeking and knocking implies that a person will do whatever they need to do to find God, they will read the Bible or books about the Bible, they will ask their friends and other people who they know have a faith in God or they will go to a church. There will be some form of evidence that shows they are seeking God and if people do this they will find Him.

## **If a Son asks for an Egg, will his Father give him a Scorpion?**

Jesus says God will never give those who come to Him a scorpion or a serpent, both of these creatures have stings that are able to make a healthy person seriously sick and even worse take their life.

This is enormously encouraging to those who witness, because it means no-matter how much a person is enjoying their life it will be spiritually enhanced if they accept Christ and added to this they will inherit eternal life.

## **Jesus Cast Out Demons by the Power of Beelzebul.**

Luke 11:14-15 ----- <sup>14</sup>Now he was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marvelled. <sup>15</sup>But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelze-bul, the prince of demons,"

This is amazing and clearly shows the mindset of the people of Jesus generation, Beelzebul was also called Beelzebub, he was a god of the Philistines, a dung-god, the Baal of the fly, a special deity of the Ekronites (Baal-Zebub) and believed to be the prince of devils and later became a name for satan.

It is interesting to ponder for a moment the fact that people in the crowd who witnessed the healing of a person that could not speak actually believed that Jesus healing power came from Beelze-bul the prince of demons.

If the people of Jesus generation believed Jesus had demons and we know that was a wrong diagnosis why would we accept their diagnosis that people with mental illness, deafness, blindness, physical disabilities and any other sickness they did not understand was caused by evil gods dwelling inside the sick person to be true.

- The following notes give a brief understanding of Demons.

### **Demons, Devils and Sickness.**

The English word demon and demons are not found in the entire King James Bible. In the New Testament of the King James Bible the translators have unfortunately translated both (diabolos) and (daimion) as devil or devils which gives a completely wrong understanding of the Greek words diabolos (devil) and daimion (demon).

This has over the years led to a misunderstanding of the difference between devils and demons. Most well recognized and globally accepted modern Bibles have translated demons (daimion) and devils (diabolos) correctly. The word demons (daimion) was believed to be an inferior deity or god and primarily relates to sickness whereas devils (diabolos) means a false accuser or slander and primarily relates to people's behavior and not sickness.

### **The Jews and Demons.**

The Jews believed demons to be an inferior evil god or deity that held possession of those with severe sickness either bodily or mentally those that were mentally sick were believed to be possessed by an evil inferior god called daimon.

They believed that the demons (daimonions) so held possession of them as not only to afflict them with ills, but also to dethrone the reason and take its place themselves and that people possessed with demons were forced by the demons to express the mind and consciousness of the demons dwelling in them, and the only cure was by the expulsion of the demons.

The fact that the Pharisees and scribes and certain Jews believed John the Baptist and Jesus were possessed by demons (Jn. 7:20) (Jn. 8:48-49) (Jn. 10:19-20) (Matt. 11:18) clearly shows us that just because the religious leaders of Jesus era believed mental illness, deafness, blindness and sickness they didn't understand were a result of demons does not mean it is a true fact.

## **The biblical difference between Sickness and Demons.**

In most instances when people had an illness that does not control the person, it is referred to in biblical writings as a sickness, but when a sickness (mental illness) controls a person to do things they do not want to do (have fits etc.), they are referred to as having demons or an unclean spirit.

Sickness commonly related to illnesses the people understood, while demons primarily relate to severe illnesses and diseases, either bodily or mentally the people did not understand. Just because people believe something does not mean it is true if the Bible were being written today it would contain words like bi-polar disorder, schizophrenia epilepsy, melancholy, loss of speech etc., which in the New Testament are referred to as unclean spirits, demons or caused by demons as are paralysis, blindness and deafness and any other sickness the people did not understand.

## **One super evil god in control of millions of lesser evil gods.**

Any force in a human that controls a person to do things they cannot control themselves, things that affects their behavior and mental well-being, voices or words in the mind and severe diseases, either bodily or mentally, (such as schizophrenia paralysis, blindness, deafness, loss of speech, epilepsy, melancholy, insanity and seizures etc., plus speeches that entice people against the things of God and God Himself are all commonly called demons in the New Testament.

But the Bible does not present a picture of one super evil god (slightly less in power than God) being in control of millions of lesser evil gods. This is a modern day misunderstanding of the language of the Bible. Demons are not evil people as Hollywood portrays demon possessed people in their movies.

People in the Bible that had demons were morally good people and in some case only children who were sadly afflicted with severe diseases, either bodily or mentally such as paralysis, blindness, deafness and loss of speech, epilepsy, melancholy and insanity, etc.

In the opinion of the Jews demons had entered their bodies, and so held possession of them as not only to afflict them with ills, but also to dethrone the reason and take its place themselves. The people of Jesus age believed the possessed were driven to express the mind and consciousness of the demons dwelling in them; and their only cure was thought to require the expulsion of the demon.

## **The Origin of Demons.**

A demon is believed to be a supernatural being, spirit, or force capable of influencing human lives, usually by evil means. Demons have played a role in the traditions of most religions. The practice of expelling demons (exorcism) that possess people or places has been carried out by many religions. The belief in evil spirits and their ability to influence the lives of people dates from prehistoric times. Many early people believed that spirits occupied all elements of nature.

Evil spirits or demons were spirits that brought harm to living people. Societies that believed in demons sought to influence the actions of both good and bad spirits through worship and sacrifices. Some ancient societies, including those in Egypt and Babylonia (now Iraq), believed that such spirits were responsible for the functions of the body and that demons caused specific illnesses.

The word demon originated from an ancient Greek term, daimon, which referred to beings whose special powers placed them between people and the gods. These beings had the ability either to improve people's lives or carry out the punishment of the gods. Basic Christian ideas about demons originated from references to evil beings or unclean spirits in the Old Testament.

By the middle ages, Christian theology had developed an elaborate hierarchy of angels, who were associated with God, and fallen angels, or demons, who were led by satan. Satan himself was considered the original fallen angel.

Islam also developed a complex system of demons. Muslim writings describe a group of evil beings, called jinn, who cause destruction and preside over places where evil activities take place. The original jinn was called Iblis, who was cast out by Allah for refusing to worship Adam, the first man.

### **Modern day misunderstanding of Demons.**

Demons can be seen as any controlling power or force in people that is destructive to their well-being, science says, anorexia and such like are mental problems and not physical, doctors call anorexia a destructive mental power or force whereas the Bible calls it, demons meaning, something that is destructive to a humans well-being. Today's generations primary understanding of demons comes from Hollywood and not New Testament or spiritual thinking because of this to think of someone having a demon is highly offensive as it implies they are either extremely evil or extremely morally bankrupt which not one of the persons who are said to have demons in the Bible were.

It is not the Bible that is wrong, but the modern day misunderstanding of the terminology and language of the Bible because modern generations have been influenced by a wrong understanding of the language used during the time of Jesus and the apostles.

### **SOME SIMILAR BIBLICAL STORIES.**

**A woman and her daughter:** a Greek Syrophenician woman asked Jesus to cast forth the demon (daimon) (meaning an inferior deity or god) out of her daughter, Jesus said the demon is gone out of her daughter and when she went to her house, she found her daughter healed. This is a woman's young daughter, a child. The child would not be evil or morally bankrupt, this was not an inferior evil god or deity possessing the child as the Jews believed but a mental disorder or disease (Mark 7:23-30).

**A man and his child:** a man tells Jesus that a spirit takes his child, and the son cries out during his epileptic fits and the boy suffers bodily harm. This is a man loved his son, the child would certainly not be evil or morally bankrupt, the spirit, is not an evil god possessing the child as the Jews believed, but a mental disorder, illness or disease (Luke 9:37-41).

**A lunatic:** a man came to Jesus and asked him to have mercy on his son telling Jesus that his son is lunatic (meaning affected by the moon), and often has very bad fits that sometimes seriously harm the boy (Matt. 17:14-18). The Jews believed evil inferior gods caused mental disorders and the Greeks believed the moon could cause bodily seizures or fits.

Today we know the moon does not cause illness, but understand that the child had epilepsy or a similar disease and was having a fit, the Greeks and the Jews knew nothing of epilepsy or the like so they simply referred to illnesses and sicknesses they did not understand as being the result of the moon or the sick person being possessed by inferior evil gods. The Jews mistaken understanding of demons was the same as the Greeks wrong belief about the moon.

### **There are many so-called gods in Heaven and on Earth.**

The Bible teaches that there is only one real God and creator of all that exists and His name is I AM the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob, yet the apostle Paul says there are many so-called gods in heaven and on earth (1 Cor. 8:5). Immediately after making this statement Paul says, nevertheless not everyone possesses this knowledge. Meaning the knowledge that there are many gods, neither do they understand how and why (1 Cor. 8:7).

Pagans believed in various gods, often referred to as "the god." These false but very real illusionary gods are created by a very strong belief in "the god" in the imagination of the mind. The New Testament calls these gods demons (daimonion), but that does not mean real inferior false gods actually exist, they are an entity created by a false belief of the mind, but to the person believing in false gods and demons they are very real entities this is most likely why Jesus did not try to explain the medical terms as we know them today.

Jesus rather than go into lengthy detail to explain in detail the medical causes of sickness simply used the common language of his era and manifested God's power over all other gods people believed in by supernaturally healing people. Once a person saw and experience the healing power of God why would they continue to believe in their false inferior gods who had no power?

When Jesus gave this same healing power to his apostles to heal physical sickness and spiritual or mental disorders of the mind it was not solely so they could deliver people from their sickness, but to prove to the people that they were teaching the words of the only true God and the only way to eternal salvation. Thus the apostles and Jesus ministry was not to teach medical science, but to connect people separated from God to God.

### **Demons (illusionary gods and the Mind).**

Demons as evil spiritual gods only exist in the mind of those who believe in them, they are an image of the mind created by imagination through a false belief in them. This false image in the mind will affect a person's emotions and feelings accordingly because the human nervous system cannot tell the difference between a real image of the mind and a false one.

The imaginary but real images of the mind create real emotions and feelings of fear through the human nervous system and these feelings in turn reinforce and convince those that believe in demons or monsters that real evil gods do exist.

### **Not everything is Black and White:**

Perhaps everything regarding demons is not quite as black and white as I have explained, even the best doctors and scientist in the world today still don't fully understand the cause of many of these illness, but one thing that is very clear and is black and white is that those in the Bible who were said to be possessed by demons were not evil wicked people in fact some were children and others humbly fell at the Lords feet and wanted to follow him added to this God through the Lord Jesus Christ showed them great compassion and mercy.

### **For further information see the titles: -**

- Devils.
- Demons.

Both titles are in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

### **Every Kingdom Divided against itself Falls.**

Luke 11:16-22 ----- <sup>16</sup>while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. <sup>17</sup>But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. <sup>18</sup>And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. <sup>19</sup>And if I (Jesus) cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. <sup>20</sup>But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. <sup>21</sup>When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; <sup>22</sup>but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armour in which he trusted and divides his spoil.

Jesus points out a simple principle that can apply to, a business, an organisation, a church, a family, a friendship and a marriage.

The principal is about division (i.e., if two people are waring against each other how will their relationship hold together). Jesus applies this obvious principal of division to Beelzebul and his kingdom by telling the scribes if Beelzebul is waring against himself then his kingdom will fall apart and if this is the case why would Beelzebul cast out his very own demons and stop them from achieving their destructive work? (Making a man unable to speak) (Luke 11:14).



The Jews believed evil gods called demons dwelt inside of humans and caused all kinds of sickness including deafness and blindness so they would have had certain priests that practiced casting these evil spirits called demons out. Jesus again stumps them in their own accusations against him by subtly implying that if he is casting out demons by the power of Beelzebub as they are accusing him of doing then their priests are using the same power when they attempt to cast out demons.

**NOTE:** the Jewish priesthood would have had various religious rites that they performed for the casting out of demons. These rites most likely involved holding crosses in front of the demon possessed person's eyes, chanting certain biblical verses, splashing (so called holy) water on them etc., but if they had any apparent success at all it would have only been on people who had some form of psychosomatic illness, in most cases the poor victim would go away feeling even more condemned by God because the practice of such rites only strengthens the belief that the person does actually have evil gods or evil spirits living inside of them, which is just going to drive them to even greater despair.

Throughout history and even today various religions, Catholic churches and some Pentecostal churches have a group of priest's or ministers that perform exorcisms for people they believe to be demonically possessed (no doubt there are many others).

### **If it is by the Finger of God I cast out Demons?**

Jesus does not try to prove to the religious hierarchy that the reason a person cannot speak is because of some medical condition, but instead continues to talk to them in the language that his generation understood. Jesus words "If it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you" (v21). Means God's favour manifested in the Lord Jesus Christ the King of God's Kingdom has come to them. In modern language it would read, "If it is by God's power I heal mental illness and disorders, blindness, deafness, physical disabilities and any other sickness you don't understand and cannot heal then it should be clear to everyone that the Kingdom of God has come to you."

Jesus did not try to explain the causes of sicknesses the people did not understand, his purpose was not to set up medical universities, but to manifest the power of God so he spoke to the people according to what they believed to be true. The people turned from their false gods, idols, and pagan beliefs not because they understood medical science but because they saw the power of God manifested through Christ proving he was who he said he was the Christ the Son of God.

Jesus ministry was to turn Jews and Gentiles to God he did this through proclaiming the Gospel of God's Kingdom and confirming it with miraculous signs and wonders. The miracles Jesus performed were to authenticate who he was he did not have time to spend explaining the nature of peoples sickness to the thousands that came to him for healing. Instead he spoke the words of healing according to what they believed once the crowds saw the compassion and power of God manifested through Christ it was clear (to those who had a right heart attitude) that he was the promised Messiah, the Christ and the Son of God

### **When a Strong man, Guards his own Palace, his Goods are Safe.**

Jesus words: -

- When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armour in which he trusted and divides his spoil (v21-22).

Literally means, if a strong man lives in a house no one can enter that house because of the strong man living in it, first someone stronger must overcome the strong man and then people are able to enter that house. The house in this story represents the Kingdom of God and the strong man is a symbol of the religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, scribes and Pharisees) and the entire Levitical ceremonial law and priesthood. The chief priests, Pharisees and scribes had made it almost impossible for the common people to find God (see v42-52).

Jesus is the man who has come to bind up the strong man, which he did through his death and resurrection. Since Christ's ascension to God no-one needs a human priest to intercede for them as Christ is now everyone's perfect and eternal High Priest. The resurrection of Jesus annulled the Old Testament covenant, the entire Levitical ceremonial law and priesthood and introduced the New Covenant of the Good News of the Gospel which proclaims that everyone can come to God by grace through faith in Christ the eternal and perfect High Priest. Jesus is the man who entered the strong man's house and bound him so those who have less strength can now enter into that house and enjoy everything it has to offer.

### **When the Unclean Spirit is gone out of a Man.**

Luke 11:23-26 ----- <sup>23</sup>Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. <sup>24</sup>"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.' <sup>25</sup>And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. <sup>26</sup>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." (Matthew in his account adds, so also will it be with this evil generation) (Matt 12:43-45).

The meaning of the expression, "An Unclean Spirit," during Jesus generation Jews considered Gentiles to have unclean spirits because they saw them as an unclean race without God (they believed they were the holy race with God). They also believed people who had blindness, deafness or any form of disability or sickness also had an unclean spirit. In many verses throughout the New Testament the phrase unclean Spirits and the word demon are often used interchangeably since they both were seen to be the cause of sickness. In some context the word unclean can simply be referring to the common people (i.e. the layperson or a Gentile because it carries the idea of being separated from God).

The expression, "Unclean Spirit" is not limited to the above it can refer to any of the following attitudes and desires that are found in the human heart such as, adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulation's, wrath, strife, sedition's, heresies, envying, murders, drunkenness, revelling and such like which should be replaced with love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance.

### **The principal taught in this parable can apply to the following two groups: -**

1. Jesus generation especially the religious leaders of Jesus era (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes).
2. To each one of us personally.

**THE FIRST GROUP:** the parable is prophetic of Jesus generation who were under the law. The Pharisees, priests and the law are the strong man that had the power over the people, and Christ and grace are the stronger man. Christ came and took away the ceremonial and religious laws that the Pharisees and priests trusted in, he stripped them of all they valued and robbed the synagogues of their power and the stronghold they had over the people.

Jesus is teaching in this parable that it is not enough to get rid of the ceremonial law, unless it is replaced it with the Gospel of Christ. If the Pharisees and scribes generation don't accept Christ's Gospel and fully commit to him and follow his ways they will be spiritually barren and re-established the old religious system of Judaism with its priesthood that he has pulled down, but the old religious system of pride, power and control that the Pharisees and priests re-establish will be worse than before.

After the death of Christ one of the greatest concerns of the apostles was that their new converts would be enticed back under the law by those who had religious power and were able to speak fluently and with authority. This religious system of Judaism with its human high priest and supporting priesthood and of Levitical ceremonial rites is today clearly seen re-established in the worldwide Catholic church system and to a lesser degree in many other religious organisations around the world (this parable is also in Matthew 12:43-45).

**THE SECOND GROUP:** when the phrase, "The unclean spirit has gone out of a person" is thought of in the context of salvation it can refer to a person who repents and makes a decision to forsake his or her old and ungodly ways and follow Christ. The Scriptures state that John the Baptist cleansed the house of Israel with the message of repentance. He told the Pharisees to produce fruit that shows they are repentant showing that it is not enough for a person to confess to follow Christ and then continue in a lifestyle that is offensive to God.

They need to turn away from those things that bring a bad testimony to God and the name of Christ and replace them with the fruits of the Spirit (i.e., love, mercy, kindness and forgiveness etc.).

The Gospel of Jesus replaces law and legalism with love and grace. The treasures and richness of grace in Christ do not yield their joys to those who do not commit to the One these treasures are hidden in and therefore those that have half-heartily followed the Lord or sat on the edges of the path (i.e., undecided between choosing the Kingdom of God or the lifestyle they are accustomed to) eventually fall back to their old habits.

They are now worse than they were before because they have denied the only one who is able to save them to eternal life. The principle Jesus is teaching it is that it is no use turning away from a thing unless it is replaced with something else that a person fully commits too. If a person does not replace something they desire to forsake with something else they are left in a vulnerable place (a spiritual wilderness) and most likely will return to the very thing they are attempting to turn away from.

**For further information see the title: -**

- Unclean Spirits (Old and New Testament)

In, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

**Whoever does Not Gather with Me Scatters.**

Jesus words, "Whoever does not gather with me scatters" (v23) in this context primarily refers to those who teach that salvation is by law, good works and self-effort, contrasted to those who teach that salvation is by grace through faith in Christ.

**NOTE:** Paul after returning to a group of people that he personally taught the Gospel of Christ to tells them that he is stunned that they are being enticed back under a distorted Gospel (Gal. 1:1-9). This was a congregation who Paul had personally taught himself.

When Paul re-visited them they were most likely still teaching repentance and water baptism, the promises of Abraham, the Kingdom of God, Christ's return, eternal life and that Jesus was the Son of God and the only way to salvation, but Paul accuses them of distorting the Gospel because they have forsaken one aspect of the doctrine of Christ that distorts his entire message, so much so Paul calls it another Gospel.

The part they had departed from that turns Christ's message into another Gospel was grace, they had reverted back to the Law and self-effort to be saved or maintain their salvation rather than continuing in the faith they were saved with they were trusting in their own righteousness instead of trusting in the righteousness that is imputed to all those who trust in Christ to be saved (Gal. 2:15). The moment those in Christ move toward self-effort and away from grace to be saved they nullify what Christ achieved for them on the cross and this Paul says, "He will never do!" (Gal. 2:15) (Gal. 2:21).

**Blessed is the Woman who Gave Birth to Jesus.**

Luke 11:27-28 ----- <sup>27</sup>As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!" <sup>28</sup>But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

To be blessed by Jesus a person needs to do the following two things: -

- Believe what he says.
- Do it.

Whoever does these two things will not only be loved and favoured by Christ, but also loved by his heavenly Father.

### **Blessed is the Womb that Bore You, and the Breasts at which you Nursed!**

A great majority of traditional Christianity mistakenly believe that Jesus is God, in the light of these verses if this belief was true one has to wonder who was controlling the universe while God was a foetus in Mary's womb and feeding on her breasts. Added to this those who believe Jesus is God have to accept as many Catholics do that Mary is the mother of God.

The Bible does not teach that Jesus the Son is actually God the Father this is a mistaken teaching that has been passed down from generation to generation through a misunderstanding of a handful of verses in the same way that many other false teachings have been embraced from generation to generation through the Catholic religious system.

The Bible clearly teaches that Jesus Christ is the perfect image of God, full of the Spirit of God and the glorified and most beloved Son of God who has been exalted to the right hand side of God (his heavenly Father) who has given him all power and all authority over every principality and power.

### **Words of Comfort and Encouragement.**

Since the teaching that Jesus is God has such a strong hold on much of traditional Christianity the following will encourage and comfort faithful brothers and sisters in Christ who maybe in some doubt and unsure of what to believe concerning the Father and the Son. The Bible very clearly shows that even if Jesus was God no one has to know this to be saved to eternal life since there is not one verse in the entire Bible that states: -

- We must believe that Jesus is God to be saved.

Nor is there one verse from Genesis to Revelations that says: -

- Whoever believes that Jesus is God the Son will be saved.

In total contrast to this silence there are literally multitudes of Scriptures throughout the pages of the New Testament that very clearly proclaim: -

- We must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved.

And that say: -

- Whoever believes that Jesus is the Son of God will be saved.

Surely if it was important to believe that Jesus was actually God to be saved to eternal life Jesus, the apostles and Paul would have told us at least once in all their teaching concerning salvation, but all we hear from Paul, the apostles and Jesus himself is them saying that we must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved to eternal life.

Jesus himself said, "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God 'and' Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent (John 17:3).

### **For further information see the title: -**

- Trinity (The Doctrine of the Trinity)
- In Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

## **As Jonah became a Sign to Nineveh, so will the Son of Man Be.**

Luke 11:29-30 ----- <sup>29</sup>When the crowds were increasing, he began to say, "This generation is an evil generation. It seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah. <sup>30</sup>For as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so will the Son of Man be to this generation.

In the book of Matthew Jesus said: -

- An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. (Matt. 12:39-40) (Jonah 1:17).

The sign of Jonah Jesus is referring to is: as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish so will Jesus be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. Within Christianity there is confusion over the three days and three nights, so the following is a brief explanation. The phrase, "Three days and three nights" Is a Jewish idiom which means the third day (an idiom is an individual manner of speaking) (a colloquial). It is not teaching that Jesus was in the tomb for three full days and nights (seventy-two hours) as this idea is ruled out completely by the fact that one of the two disciples who was talking with Jesus on the road to Emmaus on the very afternoon of his resurrection said that it was the third day since Jesus had been crucified (Luke 24:21).

This is decisive, if Jesus had lain in the tomb for three full days and three full nights that disciple should have been saying "the fourth day" thus for this reason alone the literal interpretation of three full days and three full nights must go. The Jewish idiom, "Three days and three nights" simply means Jesus will be raised on the "third Day" and not that he will be in the tomb for three full days and nights.

There is also the additional problem created by such passages that state Jesus will be "Raised the third Day" (Matt. 16:21), "Raise the third Day" is used at least ten times and is quite incompatible with the three full days and three full night theory. Added to this is the question, "Why would the women leave their attempt to attend to the body of Jesus if he was crucified Thursday until Sunday when they could have done what they deemed to be needful on the intervening Friday." This three full days and three full nights in the grave theory would never have arisen, based on one verse only, if there had been proper recognition of the common Bible idiom that three days and three nights is another way of saying the third day and the realisation that there is no lack of evidence to support this conclusion.

**For further information see title: -**

- Three Days and Three Nights in, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

**The men of Nineveh will condemn this Generation.**

Jesus words: -

- The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here (v32).

The men of Nineveh were great sinners, but they listened to Jonah and repented. Jesus is saying to his generation especially the religious leaders (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) that even though he is greater than Jonah (and done far greater signs) they do not believe him and repent as the people of Nineveh did when they heard Jonah proclaiming repentance therefore in the resurrection the people of Nineveh will be raised and condemn Jesus generation.

**This generation is an evil generation it seeks for a sign:** notice Jesus calls those who seek for signs to prove that Christ is who he says he is evil this is because everyone has to come to God by faith, they have to believe Jesus is the Son of God from the heart and not because they have seen some great sign. Multitudes followed Jesus to be healed and even though they saw miraculous signs many still fell away when he said to them: -

- Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him after this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him (John 6:53-66).

Eating Christ's flesh and drinking his blood carries the idea of fully embracing and acting on his words and being totally committed to him as a faithful and fully surrendered servant believing he is who he says he is even if it means death. Those that turned back thought this was too hard a calling to follow (John 6:60).

### **The Queen of the South and the men of Nineveh.**

Luke 11:31-32 ----- <sup>31</sup>The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here. <sup>32</sup>The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.

The Queen of Sheba (Sh<sup>e</sup>ba) was the Queen of the south who heard of the fame of Solomon and travelled to Jerusalem to tell Solomon all that was on her mind and ask him questions and Solomon answered all her questions there was nothing hidden from Solomon that he could not explain to her. After seeing Solomon the Queen said: -

- You surpass the report that I heard. Blessed be Solomon's God who has set Solomon on God's throne as king for the LORD because God loved Israel and would establish them forever, he has made you king over them, that you may execute justice and righteousness."

Then she gave the king gold, precious stones and spices there were no spices as those that the Queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon (2 Chron. 9:1-9). Jesus is saying, that the Queen of Sheba (a Gentile Queen) will be raised with Jesus generation and condemn his generation because she travelled great distances to listen to Solomon and the religious leaders (the chief priest, Pharisees and scribes) have the Son of God speaking to them and they refuse to listen to him. The generation Jesus has in mind is primarily those who are seeking to kill him, those who accuse him of having demons and others who are testing him and seeking a sign (Luke 11:15-16).

### **Lighting a Lamp and hiding its Light under a Basket.**

Luke 11:33-36 ----- <sup>33</sup>No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a basket, but on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. <sup>34</sup>Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness. <sup>35</sup>Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness. <sup>36</sup>If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light."

Jesus is saying that no-one who knows the Good News of the Gospel should keep it secret, but share it with others so that they may be saved.

### **Your Eye is the Lamp of your Body.**

The eye reveals the spiritual condition of the body if the eyes are bright and smiling the whole body is spiritually healthy. The phrase, "If every part of the body is full of light," Means if a person's life is full of the fruits of the Spirit (i.e., kindness, compassion, mercy, forgiveness etc.), and they have no sin that is not confessed before God (i.e. a person is aware of their faults and acknowledges them to God) and they understand the Good News of the Gospel of Christ and believe it then their body is full of light. Whereas the phrase, "If the eyes are dull the whole body is spiritually sick," refers to those who lack the fruits of the Spirit and are egotistical self-centred and full of bitterness, anger and hatred etc., like the self-righteous Pharisees who looked good on the outside, but inside were full of greed and wickedness (Luke 11:39).

Light can range from very bright to extremely dark (dull) meaning we can have any combination of these attitudes dwelling in us. Jesus is warning those who belong to him to be careful that the bright light they have does not become mixed with darkness and become dull. Jesus words, "If your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright" (v36). Means you will be full of joy, contentment and peace.

**Give as Alms those things that are within and Everything is Clean.**

Luke 11:37-41 ----- <sup>37</sup>While Jesus was speaking, a Pharisee asked him to dine with him, so he went in and reclined at table. <sup>38</sup>The Pharisee was astonished to see that he did not first wash before dinner. <sup>39</sup>And the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. <sup>40</sup>You fools! Did not he who made the outside make the inside also? <sup>41</sup>But give as alms those things that are within, and behold, everything is clean for you.

Alms means compassion, tender, mercy, charity or generosity (human or divine), especially active in deeds, as exercised towards the poor. The Pharisees righteousness was in what they did outwardly (i.e., the robes they wore, the religious ceremonies they performed and keeping the religious rules they had made). Their righteousness had nothing to do with what they were on the inside (See verses 42-52). Jesus words, "Give as alms those things that are within" (v41) means concentrate on developing compassion, tender mercy, charity and generosity in the heart especially toward the poor.

**SIX WOES OF THE PHARISEES.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Woe.**

Luke 11:42 ----- <sup>42</sup>"But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and every herb, and neglect justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.

Tithing was a Jewish custom under the law, the fault with the Pharisees was not that they kept the law, Jesus told them they should keep the law (they are still under it) their problem was that they lacked justice and the love of God meaning compassion and mercy toward those seeking God. For them the priesthood was all about pride, ego, power and selfish ambition.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Woe.**

Luke 11:43 ----- <sup>43</sup>Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the best seat in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces.

The Pharisees were full of pride and ego they loved being exalted and treated as someone important.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Woe.**

Luke 11:44 ----- <sup>44</sup>Woe to you! For you are like unmarked graves, and people walk over them without knowing it."

This means the Pharisees are spiritually dead and they don't even know it.

**4<sup>th</sup> Woe.**

Luke 11:45 ----- <sup>45</sup>One of the lawyers answered him, "Teacher, in saying these things you insult us also." <sup>46</sup>And he said, "Woe to you lawyers also! For you load people with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers. The lawyer's added to the Law of Moses establishing more religious rules and regulations for the people to keep or abstain from. The Pharisees enforced the lawyer's extra laws onto the people placing burdens and oppression onto those seeking God and to make it even worse the lawyers and Pharisees did nothing to help those they were imposing their laws on.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Woe.

Luke 11:47-51 ----- <sup>47</sup>Woe to you! (Pharisees and lawyers) For you build the tombs of the prophets whom your fathers killed. <sup>48</sup>So you are witnesses and you consent to the deeds of your fathers, for they killed them, and you build their tombs. <sup>49</sup>Therefore also the Wisdom of God said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute,' <sup>50</sup>so that the blood of all the prophets, shed from the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation <sup>51</sup>from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, it will be required of this generation.

Zechariah means Jah has remembered he was a man who the Jews killed between the altar and the temple. The fact that the Pharisees and lawyers had exalted the Old Testament prophets by erecting tombs and monuments for them (knowing that their fathers had killed them) shows that they believed they were prophets of God. Yet they don't accept that Jesus or the apostles are sent from God in fact they will entice the Romans to have Christ killed and after his death aggressively seek to destroy the church of Christ.

Jesus is basically telling them that they are doing exactly the same as their fathers in the Old Testament did to the prophets of God. Jesus in the book of Matthew says: -

- Therefore I (God) send you (the Pharisees and lawyers) prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town" (Matt. 23:34).

The wisdom of God refers to the fact that God in His foreknowledge knew the descendants (children) of the Old Testament prophets would follow in the footsteps of their fathers and kill the New Testament prophets just as their fathers had killed the Old Testament prophets. The killing of the prophets began with Abel who was murdered by his brother Cain and climaxed in the Jewish religious leaders planning the murder of God's ultimate prophet the Lord Jesus Christ and enticing the Romans to kill him.

This generation applies both to Jesus generation and to the generation from Abel the first to be killed to the killing of Christ the last of God's prophets to be killed.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Woe.

Luke 11:52 ----- <sup>52</sup>Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter yourselves, and you hindered those who were entering."

The key of knowledge concerning eternal life is the Lord Jesus Christ, the Pharisees and lawyers never entered into the Kingdom of God themselves because they rejected Christ. Added to this massive offence they made it enormously difficult for those who did want to find God.

### The Pharisees and Scribes seek to Trap Jesus

Luke 11:53 ----- <sup>53</sup>As he went away from there, the scribes and the Pharisees began to press him hard and to provoke him to speak about many things, <sup>54</sup>lying in wait for him, to catch him in something he might say.

No matter what Jesus said to the lawyers and Pharisees it had no effect, they were so prideful and self-righteous that they saw Christ not only as lessor than themselves but as an imposter who they despised so much they had him murdered. This should be encouraging to those who witness the Gospel, even the perfect master himself the Son of God could not turn the heart of those who were full of pride and self-righteousness so it is certain not everyone we share the Gospel with is going to accept it.

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End