

Luke 11:14-36

In our text today, we are going to see very clearly that the Kingdom of God has come upon the Jewish nation, yet despite how undeniably it had advanced, the Jews still refused to see and believe.

1. Those who tried to remain neutral and continue to procrastinate when it came to their decision about Christ were about to be confronted.
2. And those who refused to believe despite the evidence were about to be publicly rebuked by Jesus.
3. All of this will culminate in an even more heated and pointed exchange next week.

It is about to get tense around Jesus.

*14 And He was casting out a demon, and it was mute; when the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke; and the crowds were amazed.*

1. Here is an undeniable miracle
  - a. We meet a man who was known for not being able to speak
  - b. And now he speaks!
2. You could view it as an exorcism, a healing, or both...but it was clearly a miracle.
3. But notice...

*15 But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons."*

**People are going to believe what they want to believe despite facts or logic.**

*16 Others, to test Him, were demanding of Him a sign from heaven.*

1. We want to see something bigger!
2. We want to see a heavenly sign...do something in the skies if you are the Messiah.

*17 But He knew their thoughts and said to them, "Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and a house divided against itself falls. 18 If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. 19 And if I by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast them out?"*

1. You are accusing me of working for Satan as I cast out demons. Who are your sons working for then?

2. Acts 19:13-16 *But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, "I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches." 14 Seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. 15 And the evil spirit answered and said to them, "I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" 16 And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them and subdued all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.*

3. Do you notice something about the Jewish exorcists', exorcism? Besides the fact that it went horribly wrong?
4. These guys were charlatans! What did Paul do to get the demon out? And Jesus? Ok. Let's

try that to build our business.

- a. They were the offspring and fruit of the Jewish religious leaders
- b. They were just another form of judgment against the lifeless religion of the Pharisees: Paul I know and Jesus I know, but who are you?

*19 And if I by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast them out? So they will be your judges.*

*20 But if I cast out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.*

Jesus was plundering Satan's kingdom by transferring people into his own new kingdom.

1. Evidenced by what we learned in Luke 10:17-18 *The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." 18 And He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.*

2. And by what we see in the following verses

*21 When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are undisturbed. 22 But when someone stronger than he attacks him and overpowers him, he takes away from him all his armor on which he had relied and distributes his plunder.*

1. I want you to take note of Jesus' choice of words: his plunder.

- a. The word plunder—that which is taken from an enemy by force!
- b. Colossians 1:13 *For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,*

2. We are not on defense!

- a. The KOG advances
- b. **Every time a soul is saved, Satan's kingdom loses and Christ's kingdom advances.** He distributes the plunder!

*23 He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me, scatters.*

1. There is no neutral ground!

- a. You are either with Jesus or you are against Jesus
- b. You are either gathering with Jesus or scattering

2. Revelation 3:15-16 *'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. 16 So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.*

3. There is NO neutral ground. If you want to straddle the fence it may be better not to have ever seen the fence!

*24 "When the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and not finding any, it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' 25 And when it comes, it finds it swept and put in order. 26 Then it goes and takes along seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first."*

1. Let's think of this man with the demon that caused him to be mute

2. He has been set free...the house is clean
3. Now he has two options...
  - a. He can join Jesus and gather with Him
  - b. Or he can oppose Jesus and scatter
  - c. Even if he tries to remain neutral...he will prove to be anti-Christ when that mute demon returns and brings back 7 more more evil than himself!
  - d. His last state will be worse than the first.

4. **We have got to come down on one side or the other! There is no middle ground**

- a. We are not aligned with Jesus just because our parents are, or our children are or our friends are.
- b. We are not aligned with Jesus based on our heritage or our environment or culture.
- c. We are aligned with Jesus by hearing His Word and obeying it!

*27 While Jesus was saying these things, one of the women in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You and the breasts at which You nursed." 28 But He said, "On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it."*

1. On the contrary...Mary doesn't get any special veneration because she was my earthly mother!
2. No...the blessed one is that one who hears the word of God and obeys!

*2. James 1:22-25 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; 24 for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. 25 But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.*

*29 As the crowds were increasing, He began to say, "This generation is a wicked generation; it seeks for a sign, and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah. 30 For just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so will the Son of Man be to this generation.*

1. The only sign they needed was the sign of Jonah
2. **The only sign we need today is the sign of Jonah.** The gospel message!

*31 The Queen of the South will rise up with the men of this generation at the judgment and condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.*

1. She traveled a long way to come see the wisdom of Solomon
2. The very wisdom of God traveled from heaven to earth...He came to them...to us...and yet is rejected.

*32 The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.*

1. What they needed to glean from Jesus' teaching was the importance of seeing the sign and responding appropriately

**2. The appropriate response was and is repentance.**

- a. Two sided coin of belief: repentance and faith
- b. The two are used alone to imply both and together.

3. Luke 13:3 *I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.*

*33 "No one, after lighting a lamp, puts it away in a cellar nor under a basket, but on the lampstand, so that those who enter may see the light. 34 The eye is the lamp of your body;*

**Jesus is the light! Our eye is the lamp!**

1. Verse.... Jesus is the light

2. Matthew 6:22-23 *"The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!*

3. The eye is the source of light for the whole body!
  - a. if that eye is bad...it affects your ability to see and flourish physically
  - b. if the spiritual eye is bad, marred, or blind it does the same thing

*when your eye is clear, your whole body also is full of light; but when it is bad, your body also is full of darkness. 35 Then watch out that the light in you is not darkness. 36 If therefore your whole body is full of light, with no dark part in it, it will be wholly illumined, as when the lamp illumines you with its rays."*

1. The light was there...the problem was not the light
2. The problem was they didn't recognize the light...and they didn't recognize it because they didn't want to see it.
3. Remember, People are going to believe what they want to believe despite facts or logic.
4. Some of you have the same issue: you don't see and receive the light
  - a. Not because it isn't there or clear
  - b. But because your eye is bad...you don't care to see the truth

John 3:19 *And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil.*

**Conclusion:**

Have you seen the light? No?

1. A blind man has never seen the sun, but he believes in it doesn't he...and why? he feels its warmth
2. You may not have seen the light...and may not be able to see it this morning.
3. But maybe you can feel His warmth...His presence...His Spirit calling You to Himself.

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling  
Calling for you and for me

See on the portals He's waiting and watching  
Watching for you and for me  
Come home, come home  
Ye who are weary come home  
Earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling  
Calling, "O sinner come home"