
Session 11: Luke 11:14-26 “A House Ruled by the Lord or by the Enemy”

I. OVERVIEW OF LUKE 11

- a. Luke 11:1-4: The Model Prayer
- b. Luke 11:5-8: A Friend Comes at Midnight
- c. Luke 11:9-13: Keep Asking, Seeking, Knocking
- d. Luke 11:14-23: A House Divided Cannot Stand
- e. Luke 11:24-26: Keeping the Word
- f. Luke 11:27-32: Seeking a Sign
- g. Luke 11: 33-36: The Lamp of the Body
- h. Luke 11:37-54: Woe to the Pharisees and Lawyers

II. A HOUSE RULED BY GOD OR A HOUSE RULED BY THE ENEMY FOUND IN THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

- a. The word “house” is used 57 times in the book of Luke...more than any other gospel. This does not include the words “home” or “palace” or any other words that could be used for a place where someone abides or dwells.
- b. The imagery of a house is used multiple times in Luke 11
 - i. A house divided (Luke 11:14-20)
 - ii. A man called a “palace” ruled by a strong man then taken over by a stronger man (Luke 11:21-23)
 - iii. A man called a “house” where a demon dwells, leaves and returns with seven others (Luke 11:24-26)
- c. Oh...the imagery of a house and what it means to the human heart. Even more so, what does it do to our heart as it addresses our desires to be in a safe home that we never have to leave!!! Oh, the journey home...to the Father’s house! Is there a closer sense of imagery that we have of peace and safety than that of a house! A house that is divided will never be peaceful. A house that is ruled by a strong man without love will never be safe. A house that can be invaded once and that will always succumb to invasion will never be restful.
- d. A house must be ruled peacefully from the inside! A house must be ruled peacefully by the one who owns it and dwells there at all times. It is outside a home where there are trials and difficulties. A house of peace should never have peril or war within the confines of its walls. Unfortunately, it is often the inward disturbance of a house that causes people to leave and succumb to the outward disturbances of destruction...of which there is no protection or covering.
- e. What are the differences in which God rules His house and the way the enemy rules his house?
 - i. God’s house is founded upon a desire that His children would remain and abide in His love and unity.

“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.”
(John 15:9-10 NKJV)

- 1. God despises disunity and division that causes separation from His love and glory. He is zealous that nothing would be able to separate us from His love found in Christ Jesus. And a home represents a place in which love will always abound between the Father and His children.

“These six things the Lord hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.” (Proverbs 6:16-19 NKJV)

“Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple. For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil. And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.” (Romans 16:17-20 NKJV)

- ii. Satan and his demonic partners rule his house with a foundation of lies and accusation that causes separation from the love of God found in His house. Satan works with the motives to separate us from the Lord...and to cause us NOT to give Him glory. His hindrances are meant to keep us away from Him.

“Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.” (Luke 8:11-12 NKJV)

“Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.” (Revelation 12:10-12 NKJV)

“Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. And the Lord said to Satan, “The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?”” (Zechariah 3:1-2 NKJV)

- iii. The Father sent Jesus to come and destroy the works of Satan and fulfill the first prophecy found in the book of Genesis. The Father created man to dwell with Him! Satan tempted man to choose sin and was therefore cast out of the presence of God.

“And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.” (Genesis 3:15 NKJV)

“Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.” (I John 3:7-8 NKJV)

- iv. Neither God nor the enemy can forcefully be the ruler over “our house”. Neither God nor the enemy can forcefully cause us to separate from the love of God. God offers the grace and truth of His word that beckons us to enter into His house of love and to allow the Holy Spirit to dwell in us through faith in Jesus. Satan simply tempts us with lies and accusation to separate from the love of God. But, in the end...only we have the choice! Of who rules our house...and which house we will enter in to upon the return of Jesus.

“Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.” (James 4:1-3 NKJV)

“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39 NKJV)

III. A HOUSE DIVIDED CANNOT STAND (LUKE 11:14-20)

“And He was casting out a demon, and it was mute. So it was, when the demon had gone out, that the mute spoke; and the multitudes marveled. But some of them said, ‘‘He casts out demons by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.’’ Others, testing Him, sought from Him a sign from heaven. But He, knowing their thoughts, said to them: ‘‘Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and a house divided against a house falls. If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? Because you say I cast out demons by Beelzebub. And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.’’ (Luke 11:14-20 NKJV)

- a. Jesus cast out a demon from a man who was mute. After the man spoke, there was a plethora of different reactions. There were the multitudes who marveled...and then there were those who in anger brought accusation. He was accused of casting out the demon with power given by Beelzebub, the ruler of demons. The Pharisees could no longer deny the power of Jesus...and so because they didn't like His actions, they decided to bring accusation against His character. Jesus understood that these accusations were coming from people who simply wanted to discredit Him.
- b. Jesus pointed out that their accusations were completely illogical. If it takes demonic power FROM a demon to expel another demon, then how would the Pharisees be able to expel demons? The truth is that these accusations along with most accusations come from people who are angry. Accusations will always be illogical in the face of truth. When we know truth...accusation has no hold over us. That we would believe that God does not love us anymore even when He says His love is unconditional...is as illogical as someone trying to say that the grass is purple or that a banana is blue.

Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you, and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith. (2 Thessalonians 3:1-2 NKJV)

- c. How often is our accusation simply spoken in order to cast suspicion on someone out of offense or anger in our own hearts. Suspicion causes division. Suspicion causes separation. And this is why the enemy loves accusation. And in what ways do we knowingly or unknowingly partner with the demonic in this area?

“But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.” (James 3:14-18 NKJV)

- d. If Satan truly was the power that was expelling his own demons, then he would be divided against himself. To which Jesus acknowledged that *“a house divided against a house falls”*. He then declares through the will and power of His Father...ushering in the kingdom of God, the Father's house

IV. A HOUSE RULED BY THE STRONG MAN OR THE STRONGER MAN (LUKE 11: 21-23)

“When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace. But when a stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoils. He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters.” (Luke 11:21-23 NKJV)

- a. The palace is a man.
- b. The strong man is Satan.
 - i. **FULLY ARMED** - He is fully armed with lies and accusation. The weapons of Satan take the form of arrows and darts.

You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, Nor of the arrow that flies by day (Psalm 91:5 NKJV)

Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. (Ephesians 6:16 NKJV)

- ii. **GUARDS HIS OWN PALACE** - Satan claims path possession of and sovereignty over his own palace. The enemy does not sleep...for accuses day and night...and therefore, keeps watch day and night! Therefore, he is watchful! We won't find him unaware...therefore he must be overcome by someone who is stronger!!!
- iii. **HIS GOODS ARE IN PEACE** – The scariest part of Satan's indwelling is that there is a false sense of peace set in the one who is being ruled over. And he will accuse the Lord and the Holy Spirit of disturbing the peace. There is an ignorance to the man's slavery and there is an ignorance to his lack of peace! There is an outward appearance of peace that is counterfeit to the peace of God. There is a peace that comes from feeling that there is no outward circumstances of war...with a naivety of the war that goes on in the inward parts of the soul. This false peace causes us not to seek true peace.

They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, saying, 'Peace, peace!' when there is no peace. (Jeremiah 6:14 NKJV)

The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12)

1. This question comes in a disturbance and an interruption of our peace...is it the peace of God or the peace of Satan being disturbed? The peace of Satan that is disturbed will bring about accusation and lies from those who are not willing to submit to Jesus. The indication of who is the ruler over our house is often given in the response to the disturbance of the peace.
2. You can see how Satan armed the Pharisees with the weapons of his warfare. They gave in to the temptation to be pawns in his battle as the voices of lies while shooting arrows of accusation.

c. The stronger man is Jesus.

- i. **COMES UPON HIM AND OVERCOMES HIM** – Jesus comes armed with the two-edged sword of His word that is full of grace and truth...and defeats Satan.

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12 NKJV)

Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. (Revelation 19:11-16 NKJV)

- ii. **HE TAKES FROM STRONG MAN ALL HIS ARMOR** – Jesus defeated the power of sin and death on the cross...and will fully destroy him at the end of the age. Once again, this will fulfill the prophecy given in the garden back in Genesis 3

The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (Revelation 20:10)

- iii. **HE DIVIDES HIS SPOILS** – Jesus will come and redeem the man whose house Satan has ruled. He will restore everything that has been stolen by him

So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the crawling locust, the consuming locust, and the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied and praise the name of the Lord your God who has dealt wondrously with you; and My people shall never be put to shame. Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel; I am the Lord your God and there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame. (Joel 2: 25-27 NKJV)

- iv. It is important that we understand that Jesus will still cause division. The difference is that Jesus divides with TRUTH and will bring people into true peace. Satan divides with lies and accusation to keep people in false peace.

“The Lord will give strength to His people; The Lord will bless His people with peace.” (Psalms 29:11 NKJV)

- v. Jesus is clearly the stronger man and therefore is able to divide the spoils...so HE therefore had the power to cast out the demon apart from the devil. There is no neutral choice in the battle between Jesus and Satan. Jesus demands us to make the choice...to be for Him or against Him. This choice is not just made once, but must be a day by day, moment by moment choice to choose Him. And while we find comfort in the fact that God is for us...maybe the question that we should be asking is...are we for God?

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31 NKJV)

V. A HOUSE RULED BY A DEMON AND THEN BY EIGHT DEMONS (LUKE 11:24-26)

“When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when he comes, he finds it swept and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first.” (Luke 11:24-26 NKJV)

- a. Jesus shares a story about a man who has been made a home by a demon. This man has not given himself to Jesus and the Holy Spirit does not dwell on the inside of him. At the beginning of the story, the demon is already residing in him and voluntarily chooses to go “out of the man”. He is not cast out or thrown out by either the man or through the Holy Spirit. The demon leaves in order to find rest. Has the man started to make his way towards believing in Jesus? Has he started to enter into a community of believers? Has he started to try and pray to the Lord? Maybe the demon leaves so that the man can feel better about himself and be “good” for a little while. It is never revealed...simply that the demon was seeking rest in a dry place where there is no life springing forth in anyway.
- b. The demon finds no rest in the dry places and so chooses to return to the man in whom he previously dwelt. The demon STILL considers it “my house.” Though it has been away, it does not recognize the house as a vessel that the Holy Spirit resides and reigns in. This man has not lived with the demon tempting his flesh and his heart to sin. This man might even be in a place where those around him might see him as redeemed...transformed...and walking in the Spirit from an outside appearance. And yet...he has not been renewed on the inside and therefore, has no defense when the demon returns.
- c. Upon returning, the demon finds the house to be “*swept and put in order*”. The house has not been cleansed and purified, but rather its appearance has just been made orderly. Have you ever been to a house that has been swept, but not mopped? Have you ever been to a house that looks clean...but don’t open any drawers, cupboards or closets? Are you thinking of your house right now? Or are you thinking of your heart right now? Perhaps, the man Jesus is talking about feels a little bit more in control of His life. In being free of the demon, perhaps, he feels like he is doing well taking care of his own house and making the right choices. Just because there is no demon, does not mean that he has come into the agreement of the truth that says, “I am not my own.” There is no sign that the blood of Jesus has been used to clean this man’s soul. This man has left an empty space for the demon to return.

“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.” (I Corinthians 6:19-20 NKJV)

- d. The man has not realized that all the sweeping and cleaning has simply made ready and prepared the demon to come back with others. The man has adorned himself to be occupied by demons. The demon is able to re-enter the house with the strength of seven other demons...meaning that the person was not effective in protecting themselves from invasion. Is it any wonder that home invasion movies are amongst the scariest that exist. Once again...hat someone can enter and violently attack you in the comfort and peace of your own home is a horrifying thought.

- e. I have thought of evangelism so much lately...about seeking out the lost and seeing them come to Christ. And while we want to war against their addictions...to heal someone of addiction apart from the wonder working power of Jesus dwelling in their hearts through faith...we are just setting people up for the demons to return! We must not believe that a quick sweep in our own strength will ever take the place of a complete cleansing through the blood of Jesus. For Satan loves a quick sweep...that he might return with greater force once a man feels as if he can take care of himself.

***“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
(I John 1:9 NKJV)***