

## Luke 11D

- Open your Bibles with me to Chapter 11 of the Gospel of Luke
  - Follow with me as begin reading in verse 17
  - As we continue in our teaching from last week

[Luke 11:17](#) But He knew their thoughts and said to them, “Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and a house *divided* against itself falls.

[Luke 11:18](#) “If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul.

[Luke 11:19](#) “And if I by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast them out? So they will be your judges.

[Luke 11:20](#) “But if I cast out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

[Luke 11:21](#) “When a strong *man*, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are undisturbed.

[Luke 11:22](#) “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.

[Luke 11:23](#) “He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me, scatters.

[Luke 11:24](#) ¶ “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.’

[Luke 11:25](#) “And when it comes, it finds it swept and put in order.

[Luke 11:26](#) “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.”

- When Jesus stood before the crowds and the Pharisees and performed the miracle of casting out the mute demon, He had proved Himself to be the Christ, the promised Messiah who would deliver God’s people
  - As we studied last week, Jesus’ casting out of a mute demon provided unique, indisputable proof that He was Israel’s Messiah
  - And when these people saw the miracle, once they had become witnesses to the testimony of the Holy Spirit, they had a choice to make
    - They could chose to accept the sign, a clear signs, a sign they obviously recognized as pointing to the Son of Man

- Or would they not believe what their eyes saw
- The Pharisees made their choice
  - They declared the miracle was the work of Satan
  - They turned their back on the work of the Holy Spirit and on the person of Christ and hardened their hearts
- And Jesus turned to them, and He began to unveil the corruption of their hearts and the unimaginable consequences that their disbelief was to produce
  - In the last verse we read last week, verse 23, Jesus frames the issue in stark terms
    - These people were either for Him or against Him
    - No doubt there were those in the crowd who would have called themselves undecided
    - They hadn't made up their minds yet
  - But Jesus doesn't give the crowd that option
    - He says plainly that every human being has only two choices when it comes to Jesus
      - They either profess belief in His claims to be the Messiah
      - They witness the miracles or read the testimony in God's word concerning who Jesus is and they believe it
    - Or they to those who think they can remain undecided, Jesus says it can't be – look at His words in verse 23
      - The one who is not for Jesus – who does not profess faith in Him and believe His words – that person is automatically against Jesus
      - What's more, the one who is not working with Jesus, is automatically working against Him
      - And the reason that person is working against Jesus is because that person has become an agent for Satan
      - Everyone person who has come to faith in Christ, who does not have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, is fighting

against God – and is therefore an instrument for use by the enemy

- Look where Jesus goes next in the text
  - Jesus tells of a man who is possessed by an evil spirit
  - And should that spirit leave, whether on its own or perhaps because it has been cast out
  - It will not find rest for there is no place of rest for the demons, save the opportunity to inhabit fallen men
  - So eventually, it may return to the place it was, and when it comes back it may bring friends, making the last state worse than the first
  - At least before the demon was cast out, there was only one – now there are more
    - It would have been better left alone
- And this is the judgment Jesus is pronouncing on this generation
  - In Matt 12 Jesus adds this statement in verse 45

[Matt. 12:45](#) “Then it goes and takes along with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first. That is the way it will also be with this evil generation.”

- This generation, in rejecting the clear signs that their Messiah has arrived, turned their backs and rejected Him
  - Not only Him, but they were declaring the work of the Holy Spirit to be the work of Satan
  - And in these things, they lost their opportunity to welcome the kingdom of God
  - They have been swept clean, demons have been expelled, the sick made well, the word proclaimed and the glory of God made flesh
  - And yet they remain empty, and as empty vessels they are ready for the enemy to reclaim what is His – the unbeliever ready to be overtaken

- The solution of course for this dilemma is to place the stronger man Jesus spoke of earlier in the clean house
  - One who can repel the attack of the enemy should he return expecting to reoccupy that house
  - In other words, the Holy Spirit indwelling the vessel becomes the permanent occupant of that home and can never be overpowered
  - John puts it this way

[1John 4:2](#) By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God;

[1John 4:3](#) and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

[1John 4:4](#) You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

[1John 4:5](#) They are from the world; therefore they speak *as* from the world, and the world listens to them.

[1John 4:6](#) We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

- Do you see even John's letter speaks of the two-sided nature of the world
  - There is one spirit that is from God
    - And those who share that spirit are from God
  - And there is another spirit which is of the world
    - The spirit of the antichrist, of Satan Himself
    - Do you see what John's saying?
      - Either you are of the spirit of God, or you are merely just a part of the world
      - And all the world belongs to the enemy
  - But if you refuse to confess Christ, you are proving that you are of the world
  - But when you confess Jesus, you are demonstrating that you are from God

- And when you confess Christ, you leave the world
- The world becomes your enemy
- The world will no longer listen to you or agree with you
- Yet John says that we have overcome the world, we are no longer a part of it
  - And the one who is in us, the Holy Spirit who confirms we are of God, He is the One who guarantees we have overcome the world
  - Because He is greater than the enemy, the one who controls the world of unbelievers
- I wonder if this scripture challenges us
  - On the one hand, do we know which side we're on
    - Are we like the Pharisees who thought they had the answers, who were sure they knew that they were leasing to God, though they were far from Him
    - Are we like the crowds who like to think of themselves as detached and undecided, though they were just as assuredly on the side of Satan as the Pharisees
    - We ought to be challenged by these verse this Easter morning at least enough to understand that unless we have on some occasion acknowledged Christ as savior in our hearts, and professed Him as Lord publicly with our mouths, then we have reason to be concerned
    - We may be fooling ourselves about where we stand before God
    - If that's you, don't leave this morning without making sure whose side you are on
  - On the other hand, if you know you are for Jesus, and not against Him
    - Then do find yourself doubting, wondering
    - And you plagued by doubt that God will stand by you despite your past or despite your present
    - Are you worried about the enemy and His power

- Or do you worry about life's problems
- Then remember the words of John
  - Know that you have overcome the world
  - You are sealed by the Holy Spirit and though trials may come, He is with you and He will sustain you to the end
  - And when the end comes, you will enter His presence never to leave it again
  - So, as Hebrews 6:18 says, take hold of the hope that is set before us
- In Matt's gospel, as Jesus declares to the crowd that they are either for Him or against Him, Matthew records an important additional detail

[Matt. 12:30](#) "He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters.

[Matt. 12:31](#) ¶ "Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven.

[Matt. 12:32](#) "Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the *age* to come.

- I'm sure many of you have heard these verses before and perhaps wondered about their true meaning, but I believe the context makes clear their meaning
  - As Jesus stands before this generation and proves Himself through miracles performed in the power of the Holy Spirit, He is providing a firsthand witness unlike any the world has ever seen before or since
  - And these signs were graciously made available to one and only one generation in all of history
  - And for that generation to reject these signs was an unforgivable sin
    - It was a rejection for which there is no recovery, no second opportunity
    - Even after Jesus' death when the disciples walked in Jerusalem preaching Christ, this generation who rejected Jesus in the flesh would not get the opportunity to accept Him by messenger later
- But Jesus says this unforgivable sin would last for this age and the age to come

- Meaning it was not merely an offense for that day
- It was an offense that could continue even today
- How then would someone commit the unforgivable sin today?
  - Remembering that the offense is against the work of the Holy Spirit to reveal the identity and authority of Christ, then the offense is to reject the Holy Spirit's revelation of Jesus
  - When the Holy Spirit brings a man or woman an undeniable understanding that Jesus is who He said He was –
    - the Messiah, the King of world, son to return and rule all nations, the only Son of God
    - The only way to salvation, the only Son of the living God
    - Then everything is on the line
- When that crowd saw Jesus cast out a mute demon, they knew what it meant
  - They had been taught since the day they were a young child that when the Messiah came He would do such a thing
  - And they knew from personal experience that no one else had ever been able to make such a thing a happen
  - Even Jesus' disciples couldn't do it as we saw last week
  - And yet when they were confronted with the proof, they turned their backs on Jesus,
  - they said no to the revelation of the Holy Spirit
- The same applies today
  - Anytime the word of God is preached, anytime a messenger brings a clear word of the truth of scripture
  - Anytime the Holy Spirit works to bring the truth of the gospel, to the ears of the unbeliever, and the truth of that message sets in, everything is on the line
    - The stakes have been raised infinitely

- The time has come
  - There are no neutral parties
  - There is no way to remain undecided
  - There is no more debating or waiting for another moment
  - It's all or nothing
  - And eternity is on the line
- And in that moment, that moment when the Holy Spirit has brought truth to the heart of the unbeliever, there remains a moment when that person's soul rests in the balance
  - Where will that person spend eternity?
  - Will that person come to know the Lord and become an adopted child of God?
  - Or will they turn their back as the nation of Israel did in Jesus' day and commit the unforgivable sin
- This may be the moment for someone even now
    - Perhaps someone who has long considered themselves a good person, someone who felt they had it all together
    - Perhaps they even called themselves a Christian
    - But now, the Holy Spirit has impressed upon them the difference
    - Now as they consider the challenge Christ offers and they realize that all eternity lies in the balance, the words of the Paul in 2Cor6 come to mind

[2Cor. 6:1](#) ¶ And working together *with Him*, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain—

[2Cor. 6:2](#) for He says,

“AT THE ACCEPTABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU,  
AND ON THE DAY OF SALVATION I HELPED YOU.”

Behold, now is “THE ACCEPTABLE TIME,” behold, now is “THE DAY OF SALVATION”—

- Now is the day to receive Christ and to know that you are not against Him
  - To know that you are not of the world

- To know that you are not working with the enemy, destined for eternal judgment
- For as surely as Jesus rose from the dead, the same thing is promised to all those who trust in Him for salvation
  - What better opportunity than on Easter Sunday, as we remember His life given up for the sins of the world
  - That we might be accept that sacrifice and be sure we are top spend eternity with Him not against Him
  - I pray no one would commit the unforgivable sin, the sin of rejecting the revelation of the Holy Spirit