CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Luke Chapter 11 —

Teach Us to Pray, Keep the Light, and Beware of Hypocrisy

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Luke Chapter 11 begins with a simple request: “Lord, teach us to pray.”

Jesus answers with the Lord's Prayer and then teaches His disciples to pray boldly and persistently, trusting a Father who loves to give.

Then the chapter turns to conflict.

Jesus casts out a demon, and some accuse Him of working by Satan's power.

Jesus answers that His works show God's kingdom has arrived, and no one can stay neutral toward Him.

He warns about empty, swept houses, about seeking signs, and about letting darkness fill the heart.

Finally, at a Pharisee's table, Jesus speaks strong warnings against religion that looks clean outside but is empty inside.

The chapter moves through nine movements:

- The Lord's Prayer (verses 1–4).
- The Parable of the Friend at Midnight (verses 5–8).
- Ask, Seek, Knock (verses 9–13).
- A Kingdom Divided Cannot Stand (verses 14–23).
- The Return of an Unclean Spirit (verses 24–26).
- True Blessedness (verses 27–28).
- The Sign of Jonah (verses 29–32).
- The Lamp of the Body (verses 33–36).
- Woes to the Pharisees and Lawyers (verses 37–54).

The central truth of Luke 11 is:

God invites His children to pray to Him as a loving Father, and Jesus, whose works show that God's kingdom has come, calls everyone to hear and obey God's Word with a heart that is truly clean inside, not just religious on the outside.

I. LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY

Luke 11:1 — A Disciple's Request

“One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished, one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.””

“Jesus was praying.”

Again, Luke shows Jesus at prayer.

“When He finished.”

The disciple waited respectfully.

“Lord, teach us to pray.”

Watching Jesus pray made them want to pray.

They did not ask, “Teach us to preach” or “Teach us to do miracles.”

They asked, “Teach us to pray.”

Cross References

Matthew 6:9

> So when you pray, pray like this: Father of ours in heaven, let Your name be treated as holy.

Matthew 9:14

> Then John's followers came and asked, “Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your followers do not?”

John 17:1

> After Jesus said this, He looked toward heaven and prayed, “Father, the time has come. Give glory to Your Son so that the Son may give glory to You.”

Spiritual Principle

Prayer is learned by watching Jesus and asking Him to teach us.

Application

Have you asked Jesus to teach you to pray?

II. OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN

Luke 11:2 — Hallowed Be Your Name

“He said to them, “When you pray, say: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

“Our Father in heaven.”

Prayer begins with relationship.

God is our Father.

“Hallowed be Your name.”

May God's name be honored as holy.

“Your kingdom come.”

May God's rule come fully.

“Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

May God's will be done here as perfectly as it is in heaven.

Some early copies of Luke give a shorter form of the prayer, but the meaning is the same as in Matthew.

The prayer begins with God, not with our needs.

Cross References

Matthew 6:9

> Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, let Your name be honored as holy.

Isaiah 63:16

> You, Lord, are our Father. Our Redeemer from long ago is Your name.

Ezekiel 36:23

> I will show how holy My great name is, the name you have dishonored among the nations.

Spiritual Principle

Prayer begins with God's glory, God's kingdom, and God's will.

Key Truth

We pray first for God's name, then for our needs.

III. OUR DAILY BREAD

Luke 11:3 — Each Day

“Give us each day our daily bread.”

“Give us.”

We depend on God.

“Each day.”

One day at a time.

“Our daily bread.”

What we need for today.

Like the manna in the wilderness, given each morning.

God cares about our physical needs.

Cross References

Matthew 6:11

> Give us today the food we need.

Exodus 16:4

> The Lord said to Moses, “I will rain down bread from heaven for you. Each day the people must go out and gather enough for that day.”

Proverbs 30:8

> Do not give me poverty or riches. Give me only the food I need each day.

Spiritual Principle

God provides for our needs one day at a time.

Key Truth

Daily bread teaches daily dependence.

IV. FORGIVE US OUR SINS

Luke 11:4 — Lead Us Not into Temptation

“Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.’””

“Forgive us our sins.”

We need forgiveness every day.

“For we also forgive everyone who sins against us.”

Not that our forgiving earns God's forgiveness.

But forgiven people forgive others.

“Lead us not into temptation.”

Keep us from situations where we would fall.

“But deliver us from evil.”

Rescue us from evil and from the evil one.

Cross References

Matthew 6:12

> Forgive us for our sins, just as we have forgiven those who sinned against us.

Matthew 18:21

> Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Seven times?”

1 Corinthians 10:13

> Every temptation you face is the same kind others face. You can trust God. He will not let the test be more than you can stand, and He will make a way for you to get through it.

Spiritual Principle

Forgiven people forgive others.

Key Truth

We need God's forgiveness and His protection every day.

V. A FRIEND AT MIDNIGHT

Luke 11:5 — Lend Me Three Loaves

“Then He said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,”

“At midnight.”

The worst possible time.

“Lend me three loaves of bread.”

A real need.

Jesus told a story about asking, to teach about prayer.

Cross References

Luke 18:1

Jesus told them a story to show that they should always pray and never give up.

James 4:2

You go without because you never ask God for it.

Genesis 18:5

Let me get you some bread so you can refresh yourselves.

Spiritual Principle

We can come to God with our needs at any time.

Key Truth

There is no wrong hour to pray.

VI. NOTHING TO SET BEFORE HIM

Luke 11:6 — A Guest Has Come

“because a friend of mine has come to me on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him.’”

“A friend of mine has come to me on a journey.”

Hospitality was a sacred duty.

“I have nothing to set before him.”

He was asking for someone else.

Prayer is often for others.

We come to God when we have nothing to give.

Cross References

Judges 19:20

> The old man said, “You are welcome at my house. I will give you whatever you need. Just don't spend the night in the town square.”

Genesis 18:5

> I will bring a little bread to strengthen you.

Job 31:32

> No stranger had to spend the night in the street, because my door was always open to travelers.

Spiritual Principle

We often pray because we have nothing to give others.

Key Truth

God supplies what we need to bless others.

VII. DON'T BOTHER ME

Luke 11:7 — The Door Is Locked

“And the one inside answers, ‘Don't bother me. The door is locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.’”

The neighbor did not want to be bothered.

The whole family slept in one room.

Getting up would wake everyone.

Jesus is not saying God is like this neighbor.

He is showing a contrast.

If even a reluctant neighbor will help, how much more will God?

Cross References

Luke 18:5

> Yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice.

Proverbs 3:28

> Do not tell your neighbor, “Come back tomorrow,” when you have it with you now.

Matthew 25:10

> While they were gone, the bridegroom arrived, and those who were ready went in with him. Then the door was shut.

Spiritual Principle

God is never annoyed by our prayers.

Key Truth

God is not a reluctant neighbor; He is a loving Father.

VIII. BECAUSE OF YOUR PERSISTENCE

Luke 11:8 — As Much as You Need

“I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your persistence he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.”

“Because of your persistence.”

The word can also mean boldness or shameless asking.

The man kept knocking.

“He will surely get up and give you as much as you need.”

Persistence was rewarded.

Keep praying.

Do not give up.

Cross References

Luke 18:1

> He told them a parable to teach them to keep praying and not lose heart.

James 5:16

> The prayer of a person who does what is right has great power.

Genesis 32:26

> The man said, “The sun is coming up. Let me go.” Jacob replied, “Not until you bless me.”

Spiritual Principle

Persistent prayer is honored by God.

Application

What have you stopped praying for that you should keep bringing to God?

IX. ASK, SEEK, KNOCK

Luke 11:9 — It Will Be Given

““So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you.”

“Ask, and it will be given to you.”

“Seek, and you will find.”

“Knock, and the door will be opened to you.”

Three words.

Each one stronger.

In Greek, they mean “keep on asking, keep on seeking, keep on knocking.”

God invites continual prayer.

Cross References

Matthew 7:7

> Keep asking, and you will receive. Keep looking, and you will find. Keep knocking, and the door will open for you.

Jeremiah 29:13

> When you look for Me with your whole heart, you will find Me.

James 1:5

> If you do not know what to do, ask God. He gives freely to everyone and does not scold you for asking. He will give you wisdom.

Spiritual Principle

God invites us to keep asking, seeking, and knocking.

Key Truth

Prayer is not one request; it is a persistent relationship.

X. EVERYONE WHO ASKS RECEIVES

Luke 11:10 — The Door Will Be Opened

“For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”

“Everyone.”

No one is left out.

God hears every child who calls.

He may answer “yes,” “wait,” or “I have something better.”

But He always answers in love and wisdom.

Cross References

Matthew 7:8

> All who ask are given something. All who look will find. All who knock will see the door swing open.

John 16:24

> Up to now you have never asked for anything in My name. Ask now, and you will be given what you ask, and your joy will be full.

1 John 5:14

> We can come to God with confidence, because He listens whenever we ask for something that agrees with what He wants.

Spiritual Principle

God hears every prayer of His children.

Key Truth

God's answers come in His wisdom and love.

XI. A STONE OR A SNAKE?

Luke 11:11 — A Father's Gift

“Which of you fathers, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead?”

A loving father would never do that.

He would not trick or hurt his child.

God is a far better Father than any human father.

He will never give us something harmful when we ask for good.

Cross References

Matthew 7:9

> Would any of you give your son a stone if he asked for bread?

Matthew 7:10

> Or would you give him a snake if he asked for a fish?

Psalm 34:10

> Young lions may go hungry, but those who look to the Lord will have every good thing.

Spiritual Principle

God gives good gifts to His children.

Key Truth

God never mocks our needs.

XII. AN EGG OR A SCORPION?

Luke 11:12 — Good Gifts

“Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?”

A curled-up scorpion might look a little like an egg.

But no father would trick his child.

God's gifts are never disguised harm.

We can trust what He gives.

Cross References

Matthew 7:10

> If he asks for a fish, would you give him a snake?

Psalm 84:11

> The Lord God gives light and protection. He pours out kindness and honor, and He keeps no good thing from people who live with integrity.

Isaiah 65:24

> I will answer them even before they call to Me, and hear them while they are still talking.

Spiritual Principle

We can trust God's gifts.

Key Truth

God's answers are always for our good.

XIII. HOW MUCH MORE

Luke 11:13 — The Holy Spirit

“If you then, though you are sinful, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!””

“Though you are sinful.”

Even sinful parents love their children.

“How much more will your heavenly Father.”

God is perfectly good.

“Give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

Matthew says “good gifts.”

Luke says “the Holy Spirit.”

The greatest gift is God Himself living in us.

Cross References

Matthew 7:11

> Even though you are sinful, you know how to give your children what is good. Your Father in heaven is far more ready to give good things to those who ask Him!

James 1:17

> Everything good, every perfect gift, comes down from heaven, from the Father who created the lights in the sky.

John 14:16

> I will ask My Father, and He will send you another Helper who will stay with you always.

Spiritual Principle

God's greatest gift is His Holy Spirit.

Key Truth

The Father loves to give Himself to those who ask.

XIV. A MUTE DEMON

Luke 11:14 — The Man Spoke

“Jesus was driving out a demon that was mute. When the demon left, the man who had been mute spoke, and the crowd was amazed.”

“A demon that was mute.”

In this case, the man's silence was caused by a demon.

The Bible does not teach that every disability or illness is caused by demons.

“The man who had been mute spoke.”

Set free.

“The crowd was amazed.”

But not everyone believed.

Cross References

Matthew 9:32

> As they were leaving, a man who could not talk because he had a demon was brought to Jesus.

Matthew 12:22

> Then they brought Him a man who was blind and could not speak because he had a demon. Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see.

Mark 9:25

> Jesus commanded the evil spirit, “You spirit that makes this boy deaf and unable to speak, I command you to come out of him and never enter him again!”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus sets people free from every power of evil.

Key Truth

Jesus gives voice to those who have been silenced.

XV. BY BEELZEBUL

Luke 11:15 — An Accusation

“But some of them said, “By Beelzebul, the prince of demons, He is driving out demons.””

“By Beelzebul.”

A name for Satan.

“The prince of demons.”

They could not deny the miracle.

So they explained it away.

They said Jesus was working with Satan.

A terrible accusation against the Son of God.

Cross References

Matthew 12:24

> When the Pharisees heard this, they said, “This man drives out demons only by Beelzebul, the ruler of demons.”

Mark 3:22

> The teachers of the law from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebul! He drives out demons by the ruler of demons.”

Matthew 9:34

> But the Pharisees said, “He forces out demons by the power of the ruler of demons.”

Spiritual Principle

Hard hearts explain away God's work.

Spiritual Warning

Calling God's work evil is a dangerous sign of a hardened heart.

XVI. A SIGN FROM HEAVEN

Luke 11:16 — Testing Him

“Others tested Him by asking for a sign from heaven.”

They had just seen a miracle.

Yet they wanted more.

A sign from heaven.

Something spectacular.

No amount of evidence will satisfy a heart that does not want to believe.

Cross References

Matthew 12:38

> Some teachers of the law and Pharisees said, “Teacher, we want to see a miraculous sign from You.”

Matthew 16:1

> The Pharisees and Sadducees came to test Jesus. They asked Him to show them a sign from heaven.

Mark 8:11

> The Pharisees came and began to argue with Him. To test Him, they asked for a sign from heaven.

Spiritual Principle

Unbelief always demands more proof.

Key Truth

The problem was not a lack of evidence, but a lack of willingness.

XVII. A KINGDOM DIVIDED

Luke 11:17 — Will Fall

“Jesus knew their thoughts and said: “Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall.”

“Jesus knew their thoughts.”

Nothing is hidden from Him.

“Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined.”

Common sense.

“A house divided against itself will fall.”

Civil war destroys nations and families.

Cross References

Matthew 12:25

> Jesus knew what they were thinking and said, “Every kingdom fighting against itself will be destroyed, and every city or family fighting against itself will not last.”

Mark 3:24

> If a kingdom is divided against itself, it cannot stand.

Mark 3:25

> If a family is divided, it cannot continue.

Spiritual Principle

Division destroys.

Key Truth

Jesus answered their accusation with simple logic.

XVIII. IF SATAN IS DIVIDED

Luke 11:18 — How Can His Kingdom Stand?

“If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand? You say I drive out demons by Beelzebul.”

Why would Satan fight against himself?

Driving out demons destroys Satan's work.

Their accusation made no sense.

Cross References

Matthew 12:26

> If Satan drives out Satan, he is fighting against himself. How then can his kingdom last?

Mark 3:26

> If Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand. His end has come.

2 Corinthians 11:14

> That should not shock anyone, since Satan himself dresses up to look like a shining angel.

Spiritual Principle

Satan does not work against his own kingdom.

Key Truth

Jesus' victories over demons prove He opposes Satan.

XIX. YOUR OWN PEOPLE

Luke 11:19 — They Will Be Your Judges

“But if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your own people drive them out? They will be your judges.”

Some of their own followers also tried to cast out demons.

Would the critics say they also worked by Satan?

The accusers were being unfair and inconsistent.

Cross References

Matthew 12:27

> If I use Beelzebul's power to force out demons, whose power do your people use?

Acts 19:13

> Some Jews who went from place to place driving out evil spirits tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus.

Acts 19:15

> But the evil spirit answered them, “I know Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?”

Spiritual Principle

Unfair standards reveal a biased heart.

Key Truth

The critics judged Jesus by a rule they did not apply to themselves.

XX. THE FINGER OF GOD

Luke 11:20 — The Kingdom Has Come

“But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.”

“By the finger of God.”

The phrase Pharaoh's magicians used when they saw Moses' miracles.

God's power at work.

“Then the kingdom of God has come upon you.”

Not someday.

Now.

Jesus' power over demons proved God's reign had arrived.

Cross References

Matthew 12:28

> But if it is God's Spirit who gives Me power to force demons out, then God's kingdom has arrived among you.

Exodus 8:19

> The magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh's heart was hard, and he would not listen.

Matthew 12:18

> Look at My chosen servant, the One I love and take joy in. I will place My Spirit on Him.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus' works show that God's kingdom has arrived.

Key Truth

Where Jesus is, God's kingdom is present.

XXI. A STRONG MAN

Luke 11:21 — Fully Armed

“When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe.”

“A strong man.”

Satan.

“Fully armed, guards his own house.”

He holds people captive.

“His possessions are safe.”

As long as no one stronger comes.

Cross References

Matthew 12:29

> How can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his things unless he first ties up the strong man?

Mark 3:27

> No one can go into a strong man's house and steal his things unless he first ties him up.

Isaiah 49:24

> Can goods be taken from a warrior, or prisoners rescued from a tyrant?

Spiritual Principle

Satan holds people captive.

Key Truth

Without Jesus, the strong man keeps his prisoners.

XXII. SOMEONE STRONGER

Luke 11:22 — Overpowered

“But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up his spoils.”

“Someone stronger.”

Jesus.

“Attacks and overpowers him.”

Jesus defeats Satan.

“Takes away the armor.”

“And divides up his spoils.”

The people Satan held captive are set free.

Jesus is stronger.

Cross References

Isaiah 49:25

> This is what the Lord says: “Yes, captives will be taken from warriors, and plunder rescued from the fierce. I will fight those who fight you, and I will save your children.”

Colossians 2:15

> Through the cross He stripped the spiritual rulers and powers of their weapons, put them on public display, and celebrated His victory over them.

1 John 3:8

> This is why the Son of God came into the world: to undo what the devil has done.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus is stronger than Satan.

Key Truth

Jesus came to break into the strong man's house and set the captives free.

XXIII. WITH ME OR AGAINST ME

Luke 11:23 — Gathering or Scattering

“Whoever is not with Me is against Me, and whoever does not gather with Me scatters.””

“Whoever is not with Me is against Me.”

No one can stay neutral about Jesus.

“Whoever does not gather with Me scatters.”

Either we help His work or we hinder it.

In Chapter 9, Jesus told His disciples not to stop others serving in His name.

Here He warns that toward Jesus Himself, neutrality is impossible.

Cross References

Matthew 12:30

> Anyone who is not on My side is against Me, and anyone who does not help Me bring people in is driving them away.

Mark 9:40

> Whoever is not against us is for us.

Luke 9:50

> Do not stop him, because whoever is not against you is for you.

Spiritual Principle

No one can be neutral about Jesus.

Spiritual Warning

Refusing to decide about Jesus is itself a decision.

XXIV. SEEKING REST

Luke 11:24 — I Will Return

““When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left.’”

“When an impure spirit comes out of a person.”

“It goes through arid places seeking rest.”

“I will return to the house I left.”

Evil does not give up easily.

Getting rid of evil is not enough.

Something good must take its place.

Cross References

Matthew 12:43

> When an evil spirit leaves someone, it wanders through the desert searching for rest and finds none.

Isaiah 34:14

> Wild animals will meet there, and wild goats will call to each other.

Job 1:7

> The Lord asked Satan, “Where have you come from?” Satan answered, “From roaming through the earth and walking back and forth on it.”

Spiritual Principle

Evil seeks to return to an empty life.

Key Truth

Removing sin is not enough; Christ must fill the heart.

XXV. SWEPT CLEAN

Luke 11:25 — Put in Order

“When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order.”

“Swept clean and put in order.”

Neat.

Tidy.

But empty.

Moral reform without God leaves the heart empty.

An empty house invites trouble.

Cross References

Matthew 12:44

> It finds the house empty, swept clean, and in order.

2 Peter 2:20

> If they escape the world's corruption by knowing our Lord Jesus Christ and then are tangled in it again and defeated, they are worse off at the end than at the beginning.

Matthew 23:26

> Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup, and then the outside will be clean too.

Spiritual Principle

A clean but empty heart is still in danger.

Key Truth

The heart must be filled with God, not just emptied of evil.

XXVI. WORSE THAN THE FIRST

Luke 11:26 — Seven Other Spirits

“Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first.””

“Seven other spirits more wicked than itself.”

Complete wickedness.

“The final condition of that person is worse than the first.”

A serious warning.

Turning from evil without turning to Jesus leaves us more vulnerable.

Cross References

Matthew 12:45

> Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they go in and live there. And that person ends up worse than before.

2 Peter 2:20

> Their last condition is worse than the first.

Hebrews 6:4

> It is impossible for those who were once enlightened, who tasted the heavenly gift and shared in the Holy Spirit,

Spiritual Principle

Half-hearted reform leads to deeper bondage.

Spiritual Warning

Do not leave your heart empty; let Jesus fill it.

XXVII. BLESSED IS THE MOTHER

Luke 11:27 — A Woman Called Out

“As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, “Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you.””

A woman was moved by Jesus' words.

She praised His mother.

It was a sincere compliment.

In that culture, a son's greatness honored his mother.

Mary herself had said, “All generations will call me blessed.”

Cross References

Luke 1:42

> In a loud voice she said, “You are blessed among women, and the child you will have is blessed.”

Luke 1:48

> From now on, all generations will call me blessed.

Song of Solomon 6:9

> The young women saw her and called her blessed.

Spiritual Principle

Honoring those God uses is right, but there is a greater blessing.

Key Truth

Mary was truly blessed, yet Jesus pointed to something even more important.

XXVIII. BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO OBEY

Luke 11:28 — Hear and Obey

“He replied, “Rather, blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it.””

“Rather.”

Jesus did not deny Mary's blessing.

He pointed beyond it.

“Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it.”

The greatest blessing is open to everyone.

Mary was blessed most of all because she believed and obeyed.

Cross References

Luke 8:21

> My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and do it.

James 1:22

> Do what the word says, and do not merely listen to it and fool yourselves.

Revelation 1:3

> God blesses the one who reads this prophecy aloud, and He blesses those who listen and take its message to heart.

Spiritual Principle

True blessedness comes from hearing and obeying God's Word.

Key Truth

The greatest blessing is available to everyone who obeys.

XXIX. THE SIGN OF JONAH

Luke 11:29 — A Wicked Generation

“As the crowds increased, Jesus said, “This is a wicked generation. It asks for a sign, but none will be given except the sign of Jonah.”

“This is a wicked generation.”

Strong words for the crowds who demanded proof.

“It asks for a sign.”

They wanted Jesus to perform on demand.

“None will be given except the sign of Jonah.”

Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and came out alive.

Jesus would be in the grave and rise again.

Cross References

Matthew 12:39

> Wicked, unfaithful people demand a miracle, but the only sign they will get is the one shown through Jonah the prophet.

Matthew 16:4

> A wicked and faithless people look for a sign, but none will be given except the sign of Jonah.

Jonah 1:17

> The Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights.

Spiritual Principle

The resurrection is God's great sign.

Key Truth

The sign they needed was the empty tomb.

XXX. A SIGN TO THE NINEVITES

Luke 11:30 — The Son of Man

“For as Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites, so also will the Son of Man be to this generation.”

“As Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites.”

Jonah himself was the sign.

A man rescued from death, preaching repentance.

“So also will the Son of Man be.”

Jesus Himself is the sign.

Risen from death, calling all to repent.

Cross References

Jonah 3:4

> Jonah began walking into the city, and after a day's walk he shouted, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be destroyed!”

Matthew 12:40

> Jonah spent three days and three nights inside the great fish, and the Son of Man will spend three days and three nights in the grave.

Jonah 1:17

> Jonah spent three days and three nights inside the fish.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus Himself is God's sign to the world.

Key Truth

The risen Christ calls every generation to repent.

XXXI. ONE GREATER THAN SOLOMON

Luke 11:31 — The Queen of the South

“The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with the people of this generation and condemn them; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom, and now one greater than Solomon is here.”

“The Queen of the South.”

The Queen of Sheba, a Gentile.

“She came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom.”

She traveled far to hear a wise man.

“Now one greater than Solomon is here.”

Jesus was right in front of them.

A Gentile queen traveled far for wisdom.

They would not even listen to the One standing among them.

Cross References

Matthew 12:42

> On judgment day the queen from the south will rise and show this generation to be guilty. She traveled from the far edge of the world to hear Solomon's wisdom, and now Someone greater than Solomon stands here.

1 Kings 10:1

> When the Queen of Sheba heard about Solomon's fame, she came to test him with hard questions.

2 Chronicles 9:1

> The Queen of Sheba heard of Solomon's fame and came to Jerusalem to test him with difficult questions.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus is greater than the wisest of men.

Spiritual Warning

Ignoring Jesus is worse than never having heard of Solomon.

XXXII. ONE GREATER THAN JONAH

Luke 11:32 — The Men of Nineveh

“The men of Nineveh will stand at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at Jonah's preaching, and now one greater than Jonah is here.””

“The men of Nineveh.”

A wicked Gentile city.

“They repented at Jonah's preaching.”

An unwilling prophet.

A short message.

Yet a whole city turned to God.

“Now one greater than Jonah is here.”

Jesus offered far more.

Would they repent?

Cross References

Matthew 12:41

> When judgment comes, the people of Nineveh will rise up and show this generation to be guilty. They turned from sin when Jonah preached, and now Someone greater than Jonah stands here.

Jonah 3:5

> The people of Nineveh believed God. They announced a fast and put on rough cloth, from the greatest to the least.

Jonah 3:10

> When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, He changed His mind and did not destroy them.

Spiritual Principle

Greater revelation brings greater responsibility.

Key Truth

Jesus is greater than any prophet or king.

XXXIII. A LAMP ON A STAND

Luke 11:33 — So Others May See

““No one lights a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be hidden, or under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, so that those who come in may see the light.”

God has not hidden His light.

Jesus is the light set on a stand for all to see.

The problem is not a lack of light.

It is whether we will see.

Cross References

Matthew 5:15

> No one lights a lamp and covers it. Instead, it is placed on a lampstand to give light to everyone in the house.

Mark 4:21

> Do you put a lamp under a bowl or a bed? No, you put it on a lampstand.

Luke 8:16

> Nobody hides a lit lamp under a jar. They set it where people coming in can see the light.

Spiritual Principle

God's light has been openly revealed.

Key Truth

Jesus is God's light, shining for all to see.

XXXIV. THE LAMP OF THE BODY

Luke 11:34 — Healthy Eyes

“Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are healthy, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are unhealthy, your body also is full of darkness.”

“Your eye is the lamp of your body.”

The eye lets light into the body.

“When your eyes are healthy.”

Clear, focused on God.

“Your whole body also is full of light.”

“When they are unhealthy.”

Clouded by sin, greed, or unbelief.

“Your body also is full of darkness.”

How we see determines what fills us.

Cross References

Matthew 6:22

> Your eyes are like a lamp for your body. When they see clearly, light fills your whole body.

Matthew 6:23

> But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness.

Ecclesiastes 2:14

> The wise person has eyes in his head, but the fool walks in darkness.

Spiritual Principle

What we focus on fills our lives.

Key Truth

Clear spiritual sight fills the life with light.

XXXV. THE LIGHT WITHIN YOU

Luke 11:35 — Not Darkness

“See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness.”

“See to it.”

Pay attention.

“That the light within you is not darkness.”

The worst darkness is the darkness we think is light.

People can believe they see clearly while being blind.

Examine yourself.

Cross References

Matthew 6:23

> If the light in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

John 12:35

> Keep walking while the light is with you, before the darkness catches up to you. Someone walking in the dark cannot tell where he is headed.

Ephesians 5:8

> There was a time when you were darkness, but now the Lord has made you light. So live like people who belong to the light.

Spiritual Principle

Examine whether what you call light is truly light.

Spiritual Warning

The most dangerous darkness is the one that calls itself light.

XXXVI. FULL OF LIGHT

Luke 11:36 — No Part Dark

“Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and no part of it dark, it will be just as full of light as when a lamp shines its light on you.””

“If your whole body is full of light.”

“And no part of it dark.”

No hidden corners.

No areas kept from God.

“It will be just as full of light as when a lamp shines its light on you.”

A life fully open to God shines.

Cross References

Matthew 6:22

> If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light.

2 Corinthians 4:6

> The same God who commanded light to shine in the dark has shone into our hearts, so we can see His glory clearly in the face of Jesus Christ.

Psalm 34:5

> People who turn their eyes to Him shine with joy, and they will never hang their heads in shame.

Spiritual Principle

A heart fully open to God is filled with light.

Application

Is there any part of your life you are keeping in darkness?

XXXVII. A PHARISEE INVITED HIM

Luke 11:37 — At the Table

“When Jesus had finished speaking, a Pharisee invited Him to eat with him; so He went in and reclined at the table.”

“A Pharisee invited Him.”

Another dinner invitation.

“So He went in.”

Jesus accepted.

He spent time with critics as well as friends.

Cross References

Luke 7:36

> One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to have dinner with him.

Luke 14:1

> One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the home of a leading Pharisee, He was being watched carefully.

Luke 7:37

> A woman in that town who was a sinner learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus engages even His critics.

Key Truth

Jesus accepted invitations to speak truth in love.

XXXVIII. HE DID NOT WASH FIRST

Luke 11:38 — The Pharisee Was Surprised

“But the Pharisee was surprised when he noticed that Jesus did not first wash before the meal.”

“Jesus did not first wash before the meal.”

Not about hygiene.

A religious washing ceremony required by tradition, not by God's law.

“The Pharisee was surprised.”

He judged Jesus by outward ritual.

Cross References

Mark 7:2

> They saw some of His followers eating with hands that were unclean, that is, unwashed.

Matthew 15:2

> Why do Your followers break the traditions of the elders? They don't wash their hands before they eat!

Mark 7:3

> The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands in a certain way, keeping the traditions of the elders.

Spiritual Principle

Human traditions must not replace God's priorities.

Key Truth

The Pharisee noticed the outside; Jesus looked at the inside.

XXXIX. CLEAN OUTSIDE, FULL INSIDE

Luke 11:39 — Greed and Wickedness

“Then the Lord said to him, “Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness.”

“You… clean the outside of the cup and dish.”

Outward religion.

Looking good.

“But inside you are full of greed and wickedness.”

The heart was not clean.

God cares most about the inside.

This warning is for every religious person, in every age.

Cross References

Matthew 23:25

> How terrible for you, teachers of the law and Pharisees! You hypocrites! You wash the outside of your cups and dishes, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.

Mark 7:4

> They keep many other traditions, such as washing cups, pitchers, and kettles.

Titus 1:15

> For people whose hearts are clean, everything is clean. But for people whose hearts are spoiled and who do not believe, nothing is clean.

Spiritual Principle

God looks at the heart, not just appearances.

Spiritual Warning

A clean outside cannot hide a dirty heart from God.

XL. THE ONE WHO MADE THE OUTSIDE

Luke 11:40 — Made the Inside Also

“You foolish people! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also?”

“You foolish people!”

Not insulting their intelligence.

Pointing out their spiritual blindness.

“Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also?”

God created both.

He cares about both.

Especially the heart.

Cross References

Psalm 94:9

> The One who put ears on us, can He not hear? The One who shaped our eyes, can He not see?

Matthew 23:26

> First clean the inside of the cup, and then the outside will be clean too.

Proverbs 20:27

> The Lord's lamp shines into a person's spirit, searching every hidden part.

Spiritual Principle

God made and sees the whole person.

Key Truth

The Creator of the heart cares most about the heart.

XLI. BE GENEROUS TO THE POOR

Luke 11:41 — Everything Will Be Clean

“But now as for what is inside you—be generous to the poor, and everything will be clean for you.”

“As for what is inside you.”

Their hearts were full of greed.

“Be generous to the poor.”

The cure for greed is generosity.

“And everything will be clean for you.”

A generous heart shows a cleansed heart.

Generosity does not earn salvation, but it shows true inner change.

Cross References

Matthew 23:26

> Clean the inside of the cup first.

Isaiah 58:7

> Share your food with the hungry, give shelter to the homeless, and give clothes to those who need them.

Proverbs 19:17

> Being kind to a poor person is like making a loan to the Lord, and He will pay it back.

Spiritual Principle

Generosity flows from a cleansed heart.

Key Truth

The cure for greed is giving.

XLII. MINT AND RUE

Luke 11:42 — Neglecting Justice and Love

“Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue, and all other garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.”

“You give God a tenth of your mint, rue, and all other garden herbs.”

Careful tithing, down to tiny garden plants.

“But you neglect justice and the love of God.”

They were careful about small things and careless about great things.

“You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.”

Jesus did not condemn tithing.

He condemned missing what matters most.

Cross References

Matthew 23:23

> You are careful to give God a tenth of even your spices, yet you skip over the weightier matters of the law: fairness, mercy, and faithfulness.

Micah 6:8

> The Lord has made it clear what is good: treat people fairly, love showing kindness, and walk with your God in humility.

Deuteronomy 14:22

> Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year.

Spiritual Principle

God cares most about justice and love.

Spiritual Warning

Do not major on minor things while neglecting what matters most.

XLIII. THE MOST IMPORTANT SEATS

Luke 11:43 — Respectful Greetings

“Woe to you Pharisees, because you love the most important seats in the synagogues and respectful greetings in the marketplaces.”

“You love the most important seats.”

Places of honor.

“And respectful greetings in the marketplaces.”

Public recognition.

They loved being admired.

Religion became a way to gain status.

Cross References

Matthew 23:6

> They love to have the places of honor at feasts and the most important seats in the synagogues.

Mark 12:38

> Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in long robes and be greeted with respect in the marketplaces.

Matthew 6:5

> When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites. They love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so people will see them.

Spiritual Principle

Religion must never be used for self-glory.

Spiritual Warning

The desire for honor can poison faith.

XLIV. UNMARKED GRAVES

Luke 11:44 — Walking Over Them

“Woe to you, because you are like unmarked graves, which people walk over without knowing it.””

“Unmarked graves.”

Touching a grave made a person ceremonially unclean.

“Which people walk over without knowing it.”

People followed them, thinking they were holy.

But they were spreading spiritual uncleanness without anyone realizing it.

Cross References

Matthew 23:27

> You are like graves painted white. From the outside they look lovely, but inside they are packed with bones and rot.

Psalm 5:9

> Nothing they say can be trusted. Their hearts are full of destruction. Their throats are open graves.

Numbers 19:16

> Anyone in the open field who touches a dead body or a grave will be unclean for seven days.

Spiritual Principle

Hidden corruption harms others.

Key Truth

Hypocrisy spreads its influence without people noticing.

XLV. YOU INSULT US ALSO

Luke 11:45 — An Expert in the Law

“One of the experts in the law answered Him, “Teacher, when You say these things, You insult us also.””

“One of the experts in the law.”

A scholar who taught God's law.

“You insult us also.”

He felt the sting.

Instead of examining himself, he complained.

Cross References

Matthew 23:1

> Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to His followers.

Matthew 22:35

> One of them, an expert in the law, asked Him a question to test Him.

John 3:2

> He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know You are a teacher who has come from God.”

Spiritual Principle

Truth can sting, but it is meant to heal.

Key Truth

When the truth hurts, examine yourself instead of complaining.

XLVI. HEAVY BURDENS

Luke 11:46 — Not One Finger

“Jesus replied, “And you experts in the law, woe to you, because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them.”

“You load people down with burdens they can hardly carry.”

Endless rules added to God's law.

“And you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them.”

No compassion.

No help.

Religion became a weight instead of a blessing.

Cross References

Matthew 23:4

> They pile heavy loads on other people's backs, but they will not move a finger to help with the weight.

Acts 15:10

> Why are you testing God by putting on the believers a heavy load that neither we nor our ancestors were able to carry?

Galatians 6:2

> Help each other carry your burdens. In this way you obey the law of Christ.

Spiritual Principle

True faith lifts burdens instead of adding them.

Spiritual Warning

Beware of religion that burdens people without helping them.

XLVII. TOMBS FOR THE PROPHETS

Luke 11:47 — Your Ancestors Killed Them

“Woe to you, because you build tombs for the prophets, and it was your ancestors who killed them.”

“You build tombs for the prophets.”

They honored dead prophets.

“It was your ancestors who killed them.”

It is easy to honor prophets after they are dead.

It is harder to listen to them while they are alive.

They were about to reject the greatest Prophet of all.

Cross References

Matthew 23:29

> You build tombs for the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous.

Acts 7:52

> Name one prophet your ancestors did not mistreat! They even killed the ones who told ahead of time that the Righteous One would come.

Jeremiah 2:30

> Your own sword has killed your prophets like a hungry lion.

Spiritual Principle

Honoring God's messengers means listening to them.

Key Truth

Honoring dead prophets while rejecting living truth is hypocrisy.

XLVIII. YOU APPROVE

Luke 11:48 — They Killed, You Build

“So you testify that you approve of what your ancestors did; they killed the prophets, and you build their tombs.”

By rejecting God's messengers in their own day, they showed the same heart as their ancestors.

Their tomb-building did not show repentance.

It showed they had finished the job.

Cross References

Matthew 23:30

> You say, “If we had lived in our ancestors' days, we would not have helped them kill the prophets.”

Acts 7:51

> How stubborn you are! You keep fighting the Holy Spirit, the same way your fathers did.

Matthew 23:31

> So you admit that you are descendants of those who murdered the prophets.

Spiritual Principle

Actions reveal what we truly approve.

Key Truth

The way we treat God's messengers shows our hearts.

XLIX. PROPHETS AND APOSTLES

Luke 11:49 — God's Wisdom Said

“Because of this, God in His wisdom said, ‘I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and others they will persecute.’”

“God in His wisdom said.”

God's plan.

“I will send them prophets and apostles.”

God kept sending messengers.

“Some of whom they will kill and others they will persecute.”

The pattern would continue.

The apostles would suffer too.

Cross References

Matthew 23:34

> I am sending you prophets, wise men, and teachers. Some you will kill and crucify, and others you will whip in your synagogues.

Jeremiah 7:25

> From the day your ancestors left Egypt until now, I have sent you My servants the prophets again and again.

Matthew 21:34

> When harvest time came, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.

Spiritual Principle

God patiently keeps sending His messengers.

Key Truth

God's patience is great, but it is not endless.

L. HELD RESPONSIBLE

Luke 11:50 — The Blood of the Prophets

“Therefore this generation will be held responsible for the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the beginning of the world,”

“This generation will be held responsible.”

The generation that rejected the Son of God carried the weight of all history's rejection.

Greater light brings greater responsibility.

This was spoken to those who rejected Jesus then.

It must never be used to blame the Jewish people as a whole, then or now.

Every person who rejects Christ shares the same danger.

Cross References

Matthew 23:35

> So you will be guilty for all the innocent blood shed on earth.

2 Chronicles 24:21

> But they plotted against him, and by order of the king they stoned him to death in the courtyard of the Lord's temple.

Genesis 4:10

> The Lord said, “What have you done? Your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground.”

Spiritual Principle

Greater light brings greater responsibility.

Spiritual Warning

Rejecting Jesus is the greatest rejection of all.

LI. FROM ABEL TO ZECHARIAH

Luke 11:51 — Between the Altar and the Sanctuary

“from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, this generation will be held responsible for it all.”

“From the blood of Abel.”

The first murder in the Bible.

“To the blood of Zechariah.”

A priest killed in the temple court.

Chronicles is the last book in the Hebrew Bible's order.

So Jesus covered the whole Old Testament, from first to last.

Cross References

Genesis 4:8

> While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

2 Chronicles 24:21

> They stoned Zechariah in the temple courtyard at the king's command.

Matthew 23:35

> From the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.

Spiritual Principle

God remembers every injustice.

Key Truth

The whole Old Testament records how God's messengers were rejected.

LII. THE KEY TO KNOWLEDGE

Luke 11:52 — Hindering Others

“Woe to you experts in the law, because you have taken away the key to knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you have hindered those who were entering.””

“You have taken away the key to knowledge.”

They held the Scriptures but locked away their true meaning.

“You yourselves have not entered.”

They did not know God.

“And you have hindered those who were entering.”

They kept others from God too.

The most serious failure of a religious teacher.

Cross References

Matthew 23:13

> How terrible for you! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. You do not enter, and you stop those who are trying to go in.

Malachi 2:7

> The lips of a priest should preserve knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth.

Isaiah 5:24

> They have rejected the teaching of the Lord of Heaven's Armies and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

Spiritual Principle

Teachers of God's Word must open doors, not close them.

Spiritual Warning

It is terrible to keep others from God.

LIII. FIERCE OPPOSITION

Luke 11:53 — Besieging Him with Questions

“When Jesus went outside, the Pharisees and the teachers of the law began to oppose Him fiercely and to besiege Him with questions,”

“Began to oppose Him fiercely.”

Their anger grew.

“To besiege Him with questions.”

Not seeking truth.

Seeking a trap.

The truth that should have led them to repent made them angry.

Cross References

Mark 3:6

Then the Pharisees went out and started making plans with the Herodians to kill Jesus.

John 11:53

So from that day on they planned to kill Him.

Matthew 12:14

But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus.

Spiritual Principle

Truth either leads to repentance or to resistance.

Key Truth

The same truth that softens some hearts hardens others.

LIV. WAITING TO CATCH HIM

Luke 11:54 — In Something He Might Say

“waiting to catch Him in something He might say.”

Like hunters lying in wait.

They listened only to find fault.

They heard Jesus' words but missed His message.

The chapter that began with “Teach us to pray” ends with men trying to trap Him.

Cross References

Mark 12:13

Later they sent some Pharisees and Herodians to catch Jesus in His words.

Luke 20:20

They watched Him closely and sent spies who pretended to be sincere. They hoped to catch Him saying something wrong.

Matthew 22:15

Then the Pharisees went out and made plans to trap Jesus in what He said.

Spiritual Principle

How we listen to Jesus reveals our hearts.

Application

Do you listen to Jesus to learn from Him, or to find fault?

LV. SEVEN GREAT LESSONS FROM LUKE 11

1. Jesus Teaches a Model Prayer

“Lord, teach us to pray.”

Principle:

The Lord's Prayer centers on God's holiness, kingdom, provision, forgiveness, and deliverance.

2. Persistent Prayer Is Answered

“How much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

Principle:

Persistence in prayer brings answers, and God delights to give His Spirit to His children.

3. No One Can Be Neutral

“Whoever is not with Me is against Me.”

Principle:

Christ's works reveal the arrival of God's kingdom, and neutrality toward Him is impossible.

4. True Blessedness Is Obedience

“Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it.”

Principle:

True blessedness comes from hearing and obeying God's Word, not from earthly connections.

5. The Sign of Jonah

“None will be given except the sign of Jonah.”

Principle:

The sign of Jonah warns of judgment and points to Christ's resurrection.

6. Keep the Light Clear

“See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness.”

Principle:

Our spiritual vision must stay clear, filling us with light, not darkness.

7. Beware of Hypocrisy

“You neglect justice and the love of God.”

Principle:

Religion that focuses on appearances while neglecting justice and love will face God's judgment.

LVI. THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus' model prayer has two parts.

God's Glory First

“Hallowed be Your name.”

“Your kingdom come.”

“Your will be done.”

Our Needs Second

“Give us each day our daily bread.” Provision.

“Forgive us our sins.” Pardon.

“Lead us not into temptation.” Protection.

The Foundation

“Our Father.”

All prayer rests on our relationship with God as Father.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

True prayer seeks God's glory first and trusts Him as Father for every need.

LVII. HOW TO PRAY

Jesus taught more than words; He taught the heart of prayer.

Pray Boldly

“Friend, lend me three loaves of bread.”

Pray Persistently

“Because of your persistence.”

Pray Expectantly

“Ask, and it will be given to you.”

Pray Trustingly

“Which of you fathers… will give him a stone?”

Pray for the Spirit

“Give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.”

Key Truth

We pray boldly and persistently because our Father is good.

LVIII. HYPOCRISY EXPOSED

Jesus' woes describe religion gone wrong.

Clean Outside, Dirty Inside

“Inside you are full of greed and wickedness.”

Careful About Small Things, Careless About Great Things

“You neglect justice and the love of God.”

Loving Honor

“You love the most important seats.”

Spreading Hidden Corruption

“You are like unmarked graves.”

Burdening Others

“You load people down with burdens.”

Closing the Door to God

“You have taken away the key to knowledge.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Hypocrisy is a danger for every religious person in every age, and God cares most about the heart.

LIX. WHAT LUKE 11 TEACHES ABOUT JESUS

He Is a Man of Prayer

“Jesus was praying in a certain place.”

He Teaches Us to Pray

“When you pray, say: ‘Our Father.’”

He Reveals a Generous Father

“How much more will your heavenly Father give.”

He Is Stronger Than Satan

“When someone stronger attacks and overpowers him.”

He Brings the Kingdom

“The kingdom of God has come upon you.”

He Is Greater Than Solomon

“One greater than Solomon is here.”

He Is Greater Than Jonah

“One greater than Jonah is here.”

He Sees the Heart

“Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also?”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Jesus is the stronger One, greater than Solomon and Jonah, who teaches us to pray and sees the heart.

LX. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

What did the disciples ask Jesus after watching Him pray?

“Lord, teach us to pray.”

Question 2

What comes first in the Lord's Prayer?

God's name, God's kingdom, and God's will.

Question 3

What does “daily bread” teach us?

To depend on God one day at a time.

Question 4

What is the point of the friend at midnight?

We should pray boldly and persistently, knowing God is far more willing than a reluctant neighbor.

Question 5

What does “ask, seek, knock” mean?

Keep on asking, keep on seeking, keep on knocking.

Question 6

What is the greatest gift the Father gives?

The Holy Spirit.

Question 7

How did Jesus answer the charge that He worked by Beelzebul?

A divided kingdom cannot stand; He drives out demons by the finger of God.

Question 8

What is the danger of an empty, swept house?

Evil can return worse than before if the heart is not filled with God.

Question 9

What is the sign of Jonah?

As Jonah came out of the fish, Jesus would rise from the dead.

Question 10

What does Jesus mean by a healthy eye?

Clear spiritual sight that fills the life with light.

Question 11

What was wrong with the Pharisees' careful tithing?

They tithed tiny herbs but neglected justice and the love of God.

Question 12

What should Luke 11 change about the way Christians live today?

Luke 11 should cause believers to live:

- Praying to God as Father.
- Seeking God's glory before their own needs.
- Forgiving others as they have been forgiven.
- Praying persistently and expectantly.
- Asking for the Holy Spirit.
- Refusing to stay neutral about Jesus.
- Keeping their hearts full of light.
- Caring more about clean hearts than clean appearances.

LXI. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Luke 11 asks several important questions.

Have I Asked Jesus to Teach Me to Pray?

Is my prayer life growing?

Do I Pray for God's Glory First?

Or only for my needs?

Am I Persistent in Prayer?

Or do I give up too soon?

Have I Asked for the Holy Spirit?

Do I depend on Him daily?

Am I With Jesus or Against Him?

Or am I trying to stay neutral?

Is My Heart Empty or Filled?

Have I only removed sin, or have I let Christ fill me?

Is the Light in Me Truly Light?

Or have I mistaken darkness for light?

Am I Clean Inside or Only Outside?

Do I care more about appearances or my heart?

LXII. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“How Much More”

A son asks his father for bread.

The father does not give him a stone.

A son asks for a fish.

The father does not give him a snake.

Even sinful parents know how to give good gifts.

Then Jesus said:

“How much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

God is not reluctant.

God is not stingy.

God is not tricking us.

He is a Father who loves to give.

And His greatest gift is Himself.

This creates a powerful principle.

We can pray with confidence because of who our Father is.

Principle:

If earthly fathers give good gifts, how much more will our heavenly Father give to those who ask.

LXIII. FINAL APPLICATION

Luke Chapter 11 teaches us how to pray and how to live.

Jesus gives a model prayer.

He urges bold, persistent prayer.

He promises the Father will give the Holy Spirit.

He shows He is stronger than Satan.

He warns that no one can be neutral.

He calls for hearing and obeying God's Word.

He points to the sign of Jonah.

He calls for hearts full of light.

And He warns against religion that is clean outside but dirty inside.

Luke 11 therefore reminds us:

Never stop praying.

Never doubt the Father's goodness.

Never try to stay neutral about Jesus.

Never leave your heart empty.

Never care more about appearances than about your heart.

The church does not need people who only look religious.

It needs:

People who pray to God as Father.

People who ask, seek, and knock.

People who hear God's Word and obey it.

And people whose hearts are clean inside and full of light.

The same Jesus still calls:

Tell people that God is a loving Father.

Tell people that Jesus is stronger than Satan.

Tell people that Jesus rose from the dead.

Tell people that God wants clean hearts, not just clean hands.

And as you live:

Pray.

Persist.

Obey.

Keep the light.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You that we can call You our Father.

Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done.

Thank You for giving us our daily bread.

Thank You for forgiving our sins.

Thank You for protecting us from evil.

Thank You that You love to give the Holy Spirit to those who ask.

Thank You that Jesus is stronger than Satan.

Forgive us when we have not prayed.

Forgive us when we have given up too soon.

Forgive us when we have tried to stay neutral about Jesus.

Forgive us when we have cared more about looking good than being good.

Teach us to pray.

Fill us with Your Holy Spirit.

Make our hearts clean inside.

Keep our eyes clear and our lives full of light.

And help us hear Your Word and obey it.

“Lord, teach us to pray.”

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Verse

“If you then, though you are sinful, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” — Luke 11:13

Central Truth

God invites His children to pray to Him as a loving Father, and Jesus, whose works show that God's kingdom has come, calls everyone to hear and obey God's Word with a heart that is truly clean inside, not just religious on the outside.

Luke 11 in One Sentence

Jesus teaches His disciples to pray to God as Father and to ask boldly and persistently, shows by casting out demons that God's kingdom has come and no one can be neutral, points to the sign of Jonah and the need for hearts full of light, and warns religious leaders against hypocrisy that cleans the outside while neglecting justice and the love of God.