

## An Evil Generation

### Introduction

If you have your Bibles. I have been traveling, We have missed you all, You were in good hands! Thank you Rick!

### Luke 11:29-54

When the crowds were increasing, he began to say, "This generation is an evil generation. It seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah. 30 For as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so will the Son of Man be to this generation. 31 The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here. 32 The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.

33 "No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a basket, but on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. 34 Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness. 35 Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness. 36 If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light." 37 While Jesus was speaking, a Pharisee asked him to dine with him, so he went in and reclined at table. 38 The Pharisee was astonished to see that he did not first wash before dinner. 39 And the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. 40 You fools! Did not he who made the outside make the inside also? 41 But give as alms those things that are within, and behold, everything is clean for you.

42 "But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and every herb, and neglect justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. 43 Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the best seat in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces. 44 Woe to you! For you are like unmarked graves, and people walk over them without knowing it."

45 One of the lawyers answered him, "Teacher, in saying these things you insult us also." 46 And he said, "Woe to you lawyers also! For you load people with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers. 47 Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets whom your fathers killed. 48 So you are witnesses and you consent to the deeds of your fathers, for they killed them, and you build their tombs. 49 Therefore also the Wisdom of God said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute,' 50 so that the blood of all the prophets, shed from the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation, 51 from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, it will be required of this generation. 52 Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter yourselves, and you hindered those who were entering."

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

### Context/Story

- Some believed that Jesus was casting out demons, by the power of satan.
- Some simply doubted and wanted a greater sign. These are the same people that Jesus is talking to now.
  - Jesus has been showing them a lot of signs. A lot of miracles. Yet people were not convinced.
    - They were judging God, determining whether or not he was worthy of them. "We're about to vote, so you might want to step up your game. Is this all you got?"
    - A dangerous place to put yourself before a holy God.

### All Mankind is Sinful (29-32)

1. Explain
  - a. A wicked generation
    - i. What makes a generation wicked? We could be here all day... But ultimately it is Unbelief.
      1. Unbelief manifests itself by refusing to accept the proof at hand.
    - ii. Jesus gives two examples of belief from the old testament.
      1. Jonah - Tell the story (Prophet, Nineveh, Fled, Fish, Repentance, Spat up, Nineveh, 5 words, entire city repents. 120,000.)
        - a. Christ is the greater Jonah - Jonah unwillingly... Jonah 3 days in the belly of a fish... Jonah came to bring repentance and faith to 120,000...
      2. The Queen of the South - 1st Kings 10:1 - Sheba - Came from Africa after hearing about Solomon's wisdom and stature.
        - a. Christ is greater than Solomon (Matthew 12:42). Solomon was a son of David, but Jesus is the Son of David. Solomon was rich, but Jesus is the Creator of all riches. Solomon possessed the gift of wisdom, but Jesus is wisdom personified, Solomon ruled for a time, Jesus rules for all time.
    - iii. The people of Jesus day did not believe, when it was staring them in the face.
      1. Mankind today is no better... The world is not getting better. We are not creating paradise here on earth. We are getting more depraved, more evil, more dark.
        - a. Examples
          - i. Slave trade in the himilayians
          - ii. Genocide committed by dictators, and doctors

iii. Jesus' own Crucifixion

2. Prove

- a. Romans 3:23 - All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.
- b. John 3:19 - People loved darkness
- c. Romans 3:10-12 - as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; 11no one understands; no one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."

3. Apply

- a. GOSPEL
  - i. We all stand guilty, but Jesus came for the guilty
- b. Each of us is running headlong towards hell.
  - i. Why would God send people to hell? He doesn't, we have that job well in hand.

### Sin is Individual (33-36) Reread...

1. Explain

- a. Light should be at the center of our life, and Jesus is the light of the world. And in a day when there was no electricity and once it got dark you went home and there was utter darkness, you would light a lamp and you would put it in the center of your home to illuminate as much of your home as possible.
  - i. Jesus is saying that we must beware not to close our light off, or close our eyes to it.
- b. Systemic Sin - (what is it?)
  - i. Sin corrupts **every** institution and **every** system because sinful human beings are involved. This means that laws, policies, habits, and customs are also corrupted by sin. We are called to do everything within our power to remove and eradicate sin from the structures of our society. The justice of God demands that we do so. But at the same time, we cannot accept that the structural manifestations of sin are the heart of the problem. The heart of the problem is found in the sinfulness of the individual heart.
    - 1. Abortion for example
      - a. Individual AND Structural
      - b. Systemic sin is a symptom of a deeper issue. The solution to a society's sins is individual repentance, and belief.
        - i. The day I told a liberal that Jesus is the answer...
- c. Individual Sin requires individual repentance
  - i. I cannot repent for you, your parents cannot repent for you, your best friend cannot repent for you. It belongs to you!
  - ii. Think of it as a financial debt, with each person in a great deal of trouble.
    - 1. If someone comes and pays off our debt we have been forgiven much, but we cannot then go and apply that same debt forgiveness to others because it is not ours to give.

2. Prove

- a. Ezekiel 18:20 - The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.
- 3. Apply
  - a. There are a great many in our culture that will get angry at me for saying this, but I will say it anyways. We cannot repent on behalf of others, no matter the sin, Racism, Abortion, homosexuality, The sins of America. That's called virtue signaling, and it is nowhere in the scriptures.
  - b. Quit faking your faith! We must light our lamps! - Live with Jesus Christ as the center of our lives!
    - i. For some of you, this means you go to church rarely, read the Bible rarely, you really don't want to hear it, you don't want to listen to it, you're not really open to it, and you're trying to get Jesus off in the corner. But Jesus remains Lord. That means he is in control and command.
      - 1. We close our eyes! We would rather live in darkness than let the light rule and reign in us. So I am asking now, Individually, OPEN YOUR EYES to Jesus! Don't spend any more time in darkness!

### **None is Exempt (37-54)**

- 1. Explain
  - a. Jesus is invited over for dinner to a Pharisee's house...
  - b. Who are the Pharisees and the Scribes/Lawyers?
    - i. Best Bible verses that are not in the bible
      - 1. God works in mysterious ways
      - 2. If you take one step, God will take two
      - 3. Let Go, and let God
      - 4. Don't be so heavenly minded that you're no earthly good.
      - 5. Jesus take the wheel
      - 6. Cleanliness is next to Godliness
    - ii. Imagine a bowl of mashed potatoes. Here is what Jesus does...
  - c. Religious people were making rules for God
    - i. Pharisees
      - 1. Unmarked graves - Dead inside, But not only dead inside they were defiling others.
      - 2. Numbers 19:16 - Whoever in the open field touches someone who was killed with a sword or who died naturally, or touches a human bone or a grave, shall be unclean seven days
  - d. In that day, the Pharisees were considered the holiest men on earth. These guys didn't do anything on the Sabbath for fear of disobeying one of the Ten Commandments. These guys tithed out of their spice rack. In an effort to not look at a woman lustfully, they would literally walk around looking at the ground,

banging their head into things. These guys were so committed. They learned Hebrew, and memorized whole chunks of the Old Testament law. Not only could they tell you what the 613 laws were, many of them had memorized all 613 laws. These guys were as holy as it gets as far as works righteousness is concerned.

- e. And Jesus says something that is terrifying, fascinating, and illuminating in Matthew 5:20 - Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the Pharisees, you will not inherit eternal life.
  - i. How many of you are shocked by that? How many of you brought your dill? How many of you brought your cumin spices? "I'm so committed, I went through my spice rack and I'm waiting for you to pass the offering opportunity so that I can put my spice rack 10 percent in." See, we don't even think about that. "We are not that committed. Sabbath? What is that? I work 7 days a week. Memorize? No, I don't even memorize my phone number, much less scripture."

## 2. Apply

- a. Churches are messy!
  - i. Smoking
  - ii. None of us have it together, but we worship the one who holds us together!
- b. Don't Pursue Praise
  - i. The religious leaders were in it for the fame. Being seen on the street corner, Tithing their spice rack, but did not care about people.
  - ii. Don't be like them. Pursue God not praise.
- c. Don't Defend Yourself
  - i. Some of us here are frustrated hearing about wickedness, and sin. "You don't know me Brandon" You don't know my walk with Jesus. You are right, I don't. But I know my own. And my temptation is to deflect, minimize, ignore, and justify my behavior before God.
  - ii. The Truth is, our sins are serious. They separate us from God, they keep us blinded and in the dark. They harm our ability to live for God, and they must be dealt with.
    - 1. We need Jesus. Every day, we need Him to help us with our sin problem.

## Be Perfect as God is Perfect (Conclusion)

This is like going to a fair and there is a ride you really want to ride. Let's call it the heaven ride for purposes of illustration. And you go up to the guy running the ride and you say, "I'd like to ride the heaven ride." And he says, "Oh, well that's fine. We have a height qualifier. You need to be over a certain line of height, and if you're over that line, you get to ride the ride." "Okay, great. Where's the line?" "Oh, the line's up there. You need to be 127 feet tall to ride the ride." You go, "Well, that's taller than me. I don't know if I could ride the heaven ride and I don't sense a 122-foot growth spurt coming. Has anyone ever ridden the ride?" "Just one guy named Jesus." Nobody else gets to ride the ride.

Some of you come here today, you say, "You know what? That's it. I want to ride the heaven ride. I want all of my sins forgiven. I want to spend forever with God. I want him to help me right now and I want him to be with me forever. What do I need to do?" Easy. Be perfect in thought, word, deed, and motive. In the future and the past. That's all. Go do it. You say, "Too late. It won't happen."

The Pharisees, saw the problem of separation from God, and decided the solution was to enact a bunch of rules. Believing that if only they are obedient enough to the rules, all their hard work will help them grow 122 more feet. It's not going to happen. The only way we get on the ride is if Jesus takes us with Him. Repenting of sin, trusting in Christ.

**Pray**

**D1!!!!!!!**



## LUKE 11:29-54 An Evil Generation

**INTRODUCTION** Still addressing the crowd that accused Jesus of getting his power from Satan, He rebukes them for continuously clamoring for more signs and wonders. He calls out the Pharisees and lawyers for obscuring the path to righteousness and salvation.

### DISCUSSION

- Think of a product that makes you skeptical, what kind of proof would you need to trust it?

### EXPLANATION

- Why does the use of the queen of Sheba and Nineveh expose the blindness of people?
- What do these illustrations reveal about the patience of God?
- What were the six “woes” that Jesus proclaims?
- How are these heart conditions?

### APPLICATION

- Where is the Holy Spirit prompting you to repent and you are resisting?
- In what ways do we live like we don’t believe in the consequences of unbelief?
- Are we a safe community to confess and repent of sin?
- What sins of religious belief or action do you need to repent of?

### THE 5 W’s (broken up into gendered groups)

- Word (How have you gotten into the word this week?)
- Wife/Husband/Family (How are you doing with your spouse/family?)
- Wellness (What are you doing to take care of yourself?)
- Work (How are you handling the work God has given you?)
- Witness (Who have you witnessed to, or prayed for this week?)