

Luke 11.14-54

The Man is in the House

Jesus > On Journey to Jerusalem TEACHING DISCIPLES > PRAYER

Usually the KIND of NICE WORDS we Enjoy in CHURCH Services

vs. 14-54 Volume & Intensity Increases: 2 Scenes CONFLICT & Controversy

LINK v. 37 “While he was speaking, a Pharisee invited him to dine with him...”

Verses	Location	Listeners	Activity	Hostile Reaction	Response of Jesus
14-36	Open	Crowds	Exorcism	"By... demons, he is driving out demons"... Others tested him by asking for a sign	“the kingdom of God has come to you”
37-52	House	Pharisees and Legal Experts	Meal	noticing that Jesus did not first wash before the meal	“Woe...woe...this generation will be held responsible”

v. 14 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.

ENTIRE Episode > TRIGGERED by HEALING EVENT > Shortest Miracle Story

Being MUTE NOT Always EVIL Spirit > God made Zechariah Mute in Chapter 1

SILENCED by SATAN: Cannot PRAISE God or PLEASE Man

Greater Power of King Jesus, Master Exorcist > DRIVES Out MUTE SPIRIT

SAVED from Devil who had his TONGUE > NOW gives GLORY to God

REST of PASSAGE >> RESPONSE to JESUS Who He Is? What He has Done?

CONFLICT against Jesus is ESCALATING DANGEROUSLY

Up to THIS POINT > Luke portrays Crowd POSITIVELY – at Least Potentially

CROWD is AMAZED but also DIVIDED > CHEERS turn to CONTROVERSY

1) Supporters 2) Slanderers 3) Sign-Seekers

1. Man in the House

a. Slander CRITICS: MIRACLE is REAL – BUT is it Really from GOD?

NOT Every MIRACLE is FROM God > May be TRICK of FALSE PROPHETS

v. 15 But some of them said, "By Beelzebub, the prince of demons, he is driving out demons."

SLANDER Effective Form of SOCIAL CONTROL on Jesus

Sign of DESPERATION in Argument > Religious Leaders LOSING GROUND

BREAK 9TH Command: "...give false testimony against their neighbor" Exodus 20.16

b. Secrets v. 17 Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them:

Jesus MAKES PUBLIC their SECRET THOUGHTS and JUDGES THEM

Common Notion: My PRIVATE life is MY BUSINESS – What I THINK,

What I Watch on My Computer – What I do in MY BEDROOM – My Business

It IS YOUR Business > Not sure if it is GOV'T or CHURCHES Business

If you're KID at HOME it IS your PARENT'S BUSINESS

FOR SURE > It is JESUS' BUSINESS – ACCOUNTABLE to God our MAKER

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Hebrews 4.13

c. Stupid WHY would Satan ENDORSE a CIVIL WAR in his OWN DOMAIN?

vs. 17,18 "Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall. If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand? I say this because you claim that I drive out demons by Beelzebub.

BEELZEBUB = Ancient term for PAGAN Deity – One of gods of CANAAN

In VOCABULARY of Jesus > Satan = Beelzebub > SAME MONSTER

SATAN is HEAD of a Kingdom – DARK, UNITED, POWERFUL Kingdom

Satan GAINED VICTORY in Man's Life > SILENCED Him from Praising God
 Why Deliver man from Bondage he had Worked so HARD to Bring About?

SATAN DEBILITATES > JESUS DELIVERS

SATAN CRIPPLES > Jesus CONQUERS – Sin, Sickness, and Satan

v. 19 Now if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your followers drive them out? So then, they will be your judges.

WHY Don't you SCRUTINIZE SLANDEROUSLY Other Jewish Exorcists?

Jesus Acknowledges OTHER Jewish MIRACLE Workers in That Day

GENEROUSLY says GOD was Doing MIRACLES through Them

ALL will JUDGE those REFUSE to Acknowledge Power of God in Jesus Mission

Every attempt to deny God's work is illogical and inconsistent. Since God is our Creator, we cannot even try to reason him out of existence without using the minds that he gave us. Nor can we shake an angry fist at him without clenching the hand that he so marvelously made.

Philip Ryken

d. Stronger PHAROAH'S Magicians IMITATED Some of What MOSES Did

v. 20 But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you.

When the magicians tried to produce gnats by their secret arts, they could not... The magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart was hard and he would not listen, just as the LORD had said. Exodus 8.18,19

TWO Kingdoms in CONFLICT > KINGDOM of God is AT WORK NOW

ACTIVE Presence of God at Work > POWER of Holy Spirit / FINGER of God

If I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Matthew 12.28

NOT FUTURE Ideal, PRESENT Imperative: Kingdom of God HAS COME NOW

MIRACLES: AUDIO-VISUALS of Jesus' KINGDOM Rule / God's PRESENCE

He is not saying that everything promised in association with that kingdom has come, only that the kingdom itself has arrived. Darrell Bock

Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.' Luke 10.9

v. 21 "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe.

Sometimes EVIL APPEARS UNASSAILABLE > Too Strong to be THWARTED

ROMAN World > Household Mansions of COLONIAL Administrators

ARMED Soldiers – FOREIGN Power – STRONG Men in their CASTLES

BEELZEBUB = Lord of the FLIES / BEELZEBUL = Lord of the HOUSE

LORD of the HOUSE/dwelling > Name used often by JEWS for SATAN

v. 22 But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils.

Jesus ASSERTING GREATER Power > than Rome, than Satan, than ANYONE!

e. Supporters vs. 27,28 As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, "Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you." He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

Woman LISTENED with ADMIRATION > Overcome with EMOTION > Blessing

CULTURE > HONORED a Mother for Accomplishments of her SONS

Jesus NEVER SEEKS Status along ANCESTRAL LINES

Jesus TURNS Focus to SOURCE of Real Life: NOT Woman, God's WORD

Jesus was NOT CONTRADICTING Her > But BROADLY Applying her Blessing

ALL who HEAR & OBEY God's Word are BLESSED by God

This is WHY Mother MARY was BLESSED > HEARD & OBEYED God's Word

Mary was more blessed in accepting the faith of Christ than in conceiving the flesh of Christ.
Augustine

f. Signs v. 16 Others tested him by asking for a sign from heaven.

v. 29 As the crowds increased, Jesus said, "This is a wicked generation. It asks for a miraculous sign..."

MIRACLES SPAWN CURIOSITY, ARGUMENTS, APPETITE for MORE Signs
RARELY Generates TRUE Biblical Faith in GOD we FOLLOW by FAITH

It is always one mark of a thoroughly unbelieving heart, to pretend to want more evidence of the truth of religion.
J.C. Ryle

vs. 29,30 ...but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah. For as Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites, so also will the Son of Man be to this generation.

JONAH was PICTURE of Death, Burial, Resurrection, then PROCLAMATION
JESUS TRULY Dies, is Buried, Rises, and Proclaims Kingdom in POWER of God

v. 31 The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with the men 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.

WEALTH &
Ruler from SOUTH ARABIA > Came to MARVEL at Solomon's WISDOM
Discovered it FAR EXCEEDED his REPUTATION > Not the Half had been Told

v. 32 The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now one greater than Jonah is here.

WITNESS of GENTILES > CITIZENS of Nineveh, Queen of SHEEBA –
Believed!

THEY join RIGHTEOUS God in JUDGMENT against JEWS who REJECT Jesus

Their seeking of a sign was not an indication of their willingness to believe if only adequate evidence were provided, but a rationalizing of their unwillingness to believe the perfectly adequate evidence they already had. David Gooding

TODAY our Responsibility is MORE Severe: Jesus has Risen, Scripture is Written
No EXCUSE for Not Repenting: Citizens of Nineveh & Believing: Queen of South
g. Stand or Scatter? v. 23 "He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters.

IMPOSSIBILITY of NEUTRALITY > NECESSITY of Making CLEAR Choice
Some Listeners had CLEAR Opinion: "He is DEVIL" / Others were CONFUSED
DEMAND to MAKE a Decision > Be CAREFUL to make the RIGHT ONE

vs. 24-26 "When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. 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 man is worse than the first."

Sounds like Extract from TEXTBOOK on JEWISH DEMONOLOGY

Verses > Unveil Spiritual Realities – Demons, Restless, Reside in People, Return
Nature abhors a vacuum. Not only must the strong man be overcome; the stronger man must have total victory and take possession of the palace...Jesus is the stronger man who brings this salvation. Michael Wilcock

EMPTY Life // Empty HOUSE INVITES INTRUDERS: Boys > Rocks in Windows

Jesus tells story about man who REMAINED NEUTRAL > Made NO Choice

Man's BODY became a DEMON'S HOUSE

For some reason DEMON Moved OUT > but Man Never Asked God to Move IN!

To Just ADMIRE Jesus – Great Person - is REALLY to be AGAINST Him

Moral reformation without spiritual regeneration even leads to demonic domination.
Philip Ryken

GOSPEL is Not 'JUST SAY NO' – Need to PUT ON after PUTTING OFF the Old
 Tell Young People what is BAD – Well, Gotta DO SOMETHING! What is
 GOOD!?

Only way to BAR Entrance of EVIL is to BE ACCEPTED by Jesus

Only SAFETY from SATAN is when SPIRIT OF JESUS lives Inside YOU

2. Man for the Heart

v. 37 While he was speaking, a Pharisee invited him to eat with him; so he went in and reclined at the table...

Thruout LUKE > Significant DISCUSSIONS happened over DINNERS

Jesus TOGETHER with Pharisees EVERY SABBATH in SYNAGOGUES

BOTH Jesus and Pharisees had ZEAL for GOD and His LAW > Different VIEWS

Estimated 6000 Pharisees THEN // POLITICAL Party 'Tea Party' Mostly Laymen

LAWYERS > Not Ambulance Chasers > EXPERTS in LAW of God for ISRAEL

As God's NATION needed to know GOD'S COMMANDS for ALL Areas of Life

Some Pharisees were Lawyers – Some Lawyers were Pharisees – NOT ALL

Pharisees were FUNDAMENTALISTS / Lawyers were like SEMINARY Prof's

Jesus GOOD EXAMPLE > INVITED even by ENEMIES to SHARE Meals

NOT YOUR ENVIRONMENT THAT MAKES YOU RIGHT WITH GOD

Nothing, of course, must induce the Christian to be a partaker in the sins or frivolous amusements of the world. But we must not entirely withdraw from the society of the unconverted and become a hermit or an ascetic. One qualification however should not be forgotten. Let us take heed that we go into the company of the unconverted in the same spirit in which Christ went. Let us remember His boldness in speaking of the things of God.

J.C. Ryle

a. Hands v. 38 But the Pharisee, noticing that Jesus did not first wash before the meal, was surprised.

Jesus SHOCKED his HOST even BEFORE the PITA BREAD was SERVED

Pharisee: CLEANLINESS is MORE IMPORTANT than GODLINESS!
NOT WASHING is AS BAD – if Not Worse – than NOT WORSHIPPING
VITAL SYMBOL of Belonging to Community > WASHING Properly

The hands are susceptible to uncleanness, and they are rendered clean up to the wrist. Thus if a man had poured the first water up to the wrist and the second water beyond the wrist, and the water flowed back to the hand, the hand becomes clean; but if he poured both the first water and the second beyond the wrist, and the water flowed back to the hand, the hand remains unclean. If he poured the first water over the hand alone and then bethought himself and poured the second water over the one hand, his one hand is clean. If he had poured the water over the one hand and rubbed it on the other, it becomes unclean; but if he rubbed it on his head or on the wall it remains clean.

Mishna Yadayim 2.3

Like MECHANIC taking GREASY HAND giving Queen of England pat on Back
JOB Interview with SEAWEED on your TEETH / GARLIC on your BREATH
MORE a MATTER of CEREMONY than CLEANSING > NOT MORAL Issue
Jesus REFUSED to Participate > Shows NO RESPECT for Man-Made Rules

b. Hypocrisy

METICULOUS Social Rules governed Dinner Behavior of HOSTS and GUESTS
ACCEPTING Invitation into HOME > Submission to Expected SOCIAL Customs
Jesus WILLFULLY SHATTERS Hebrew, Greek, & Roman EXPECTATIONS

v. 39 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.

In MIDST of SOCIALLY DEVIANT Behavior > LUKE calls Jesus “LORD”
RELIGION was MOST IMPORTANT Part of their Lives > HOLLOW SHAM!

ACTORS on Stage > Religion NO MORE than OUTWARD SHOW

How big is the gap between your outside Christianity and your inward hypocrisy?

Philip Ryken

Speak Courteous Words > while Thinking Unkind Thoughts

Never Swear Outwardly > your INNER DIALOGUE is Laced with Expletives

Never had Sex Outside Marriage > but your Eyes are Full of Adultery

Say you Trust God > filled with RESENTMENT for What He has Given You

Outward Conformity > without Inward Godliness > is Heart of Hypocrisy

Jesus is sharply critical of religion that has become self-perpetuating, that has hardened the principles given for life into regulations that suffocate and condemn, that has quantified piety and lost its heart, that has, in sum, lost its capacity for self-criticism. Without continual self-evaluation and correction, all structures of religion decay into idolatry.

Fred Craddock

Leaders of REFORMATION: Church must be ALWAYS REFORMING!

PROCESS does not END until BRIDEGROOM comes to take His BRIDE

HOW Dearly do we HOLD Social Customs – Political Views – Opinions?

Are we OFFENDED when people Violate OUR CODE of CONDUCT?

- I am a hypocrite when I am more concerned with outward appearances than inward godliness

vs. 40,41 You foolish people! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also? But give what is inside [the dish] to the poor, and everything will be clean for you.

‘PAY ALMS’ to what is INSIDE > Give your BEST to MAINTAIN your HEART
RELIGIOUS RITUAL WILL NOT MAKE YOU RIGHT WITH GOD

Does God know all things? Yes. Nothing can be hidden from God. First Catechism
7 year old Nathan - "I can hide things from you Dad"

v. 42. "Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.

They TITHED TINY Leaves & SEEDS from Herbs but FORGOT Justice and Love

WOE > word of SADNESS > Sorry CONDITION of Pharisees

TITHING Not Problem > You SHOULD TITHE – Required in OT & NT

MUST OPEN BOTH our HEARTS AND our WALLETS

- I am hypocrite when I am more concerned about my own little rules than the big things that matter more to God.

v. 43 "Woe to you Pharisees, because you love the most important seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces.

CLEAN HANDS & RIGHT TITHE > GOOD SEATS in SYNAGOGUE

CLOSER Sat to FRONT – More Righteous – Some EVEN FACED Others

There were NO BACK ROW BAPTISTS in the SYNAGOGUE!

- I am a hypocrite when I crave for people to notice my spiritual accomplishments.

v. 44 "Woe to you, because you are like unmarked graves, which men walk over without knowing it."

LAW > Anyone who TOUCHED a GRAVE – UNCLEAN for 7 Days

CAUTION > They WHITEWASHED the Grave to HELP People Avoid Them

CORRUPTING Influence of PHARISEES: Contact w/ Them Spiritually DEFILED

All of us inevitably communicate what we are. We can externally do all the right religious things...but we will ultimately impart what is within. The people around us will see the artificiality, the affectedness, the elitism, the anger, the hostility, the hatred, the suspicion, the sourness, the inner blasphemies. We leave our finger prints on each other's souls, for Christ or unbelief.

Kent Hughes

- I am a hypocrite when I am spiritually dead inside, and no one knows, maybe not even myself.

c. Hinderances v. 45 One of the experts in the law answered him, "Teacher, when you say these things, you insult us also."

SILENCE of SHOCKED Guests BROKEN > 'Come to your SENSES man!'

PAINTING with such BROAD BRUSH you are COLORING Us LAWYERS too!

Then JESUS Shifts his SIGHTS – from Pharisees – Tells some LAWYER JOKES!

Speaker - OMNISCIENT LORD: He did not need man's testimony about man, for he knew what was in a man. John 2.25

Jesus never HESITATED to Give OPEN REBUKE – esp to RELIGIOUS Leaders

BELIEVED it would DO THEM GOOD > INSIGHT we do NOT Always HAVE

By Time Jesus FINISHED > EVERYONE in Room was OFFENDED!

v. 46 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.

LAWYERS > Put 'FENCE Around LAW' to 'HONOR' God but they HID Him

4th Command > Keep SABBATH Day HOLY – How?

A man may not carry an object in his right hand or his left hand, in his bosom or on his shoulder. However, he may carry it on the back of his hand, or with his foot or with his mouth or with his elbow, or in his ear or in his hair or in his wallet (carried) mouth downwards, or between his wallet and his shirt, or in the hem of his shirt, or in his shoe or in his sandal. Shabbath 10.3

ADDING Fallible, Silly Rules to INFALLIBLE, Sensible WORD of GOD

What LAWYERS said became MORE IMPORTANT than Scripture ITSELF

NEED to BE a LAWYER to truly KNOW if you were BREAKING a LAW

LAWYERS found and EXPLOITED Loopholes > HID them from PEOPLE

vs. 47-51 "Woe to you, because you build tombs for the prophets, and it was your forefathers who killed them. So you testify that you approve of what your forefathers did; they killed the prophets, and you build their tombs. 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.' Therefore this generation will be held responsible for the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the beginning of the world, 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.

DEATH of Prophets > From 1st to Last > Existence & Authority of Complete OT

1st Prophet – Abel – 1st Book in Hebrew Bible / Last – Zechariah – Chronicles

CRIMES committed by FATHERS are FOLLOWED by SONS > Kill APOSTLES

They kill the prophets, you make sure they are dead.

T.W. Manson

KILLING JESUS was ALSO to Kill ALL Prophets who TOLD about HIM

Honor Prophets

Hosea – Love God more than Burnt Offerings 6.6,7

Amos – Give the Needy a Pair of Sandals 2.6

Micah – Do Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly with God 6.8

Habakkuk – Live by Faith 2.4

v. 52 "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."

SCRIBES said Everyone NEEDED their STUDY BIBLE > Rabbi So & So Version

Instead of BRINGING them TRUTH > they BLOCKED the Way to TRUTH

PLANNING to CRUCIFY the very KEY to God's TRUTH > Way, Truth, Life

Jesus VERY HARD with Religious Hypocrites, Liars who Lead Others FROM God

We are NOT CLEAR about the SIMPLE, SAVING Gospel of Jesus

We speak about CHURCH BUSINESS before the NEW LIFE

We ADD Works as a BASIS of TRULY KNOWING God

We Focus on OUTWARD Rituals and not INWARD RELATIONSHIP with God

We STUDY Bible MORE than we LET the BIBLE STUDY US

We CONFUSE Christianity with OUR POLITICS

d. Heart > Heart of the Issue is the Issue of the Heart

The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart. 1 Samuel 16.7

vs. 33-36 "No one lights a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be hidden, or under a bowl. Instead he puts it on its stand, so that those who come in may see the light. Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are bad, your body also is full of darkness. See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness. Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and no part of it dark, it will be completely lighted, as when the light of a lamp shines on you."

Jesus > Inner CONDITION is BROADCAST by your BEHAVIOR
EYE compared to LAMP > LIGHT is RECEIVED by the EYE // DOORKEEPER
GENERATION is EVIL because their EYES are NOT HEALTHY

The unfolding of your words gives light

Psalm 119.130

GOD given MORE than ENOUGH LIGHT but we're Covered in DARKNESS

Archaeologist Howard Carter - found tomb of King Tutankhamen in EGYPT

Opened CASKET - ANOTHER INSIDE - covered with gold leaf > 4 Caskets

Third - Fourth - MADE OF PURE GOLD

Body in 4th - Wrapped in Gold Cloth with Gold Face Mask

BODY - unwrapped LEATHERY AND SHRIVELED

Beauty on Exterior does not change the Rotteness of Interior

SAD Part is Pharisees THOUGHT they were DOING RIGHT > WANTED TO
PROBLEM > Moved FURTHER and FURTHER from WORD of GOD

The way to clean up a dirty vocabulary is not to brush your teeth but to cleanse your
heart. Warren Wiersbe

EVEN WITHOUT God we can LOOK GOOD > For AWHILE, to PUBLIC

Work Harder – Live Better – Smile More – Swear Less – Stop Drinking

ONLY GOD can change OUR HEARTS > NEW Heart to TRULY Love

The powerful gospel of Jesus Christ working in the heart is the remedy for all our
hypocrisy. Philip Ryken

FIRST thing we MUST Give God is INSIDE > Heart, Soul, Mind, Strength

THEN – only then – Do OTHER GIFTS become ACCEPTABLE to Him

HYPOCRITE Hopes NO ONE will FIND OUT True Condition of HEART

HUMBLE Christian says > “Hey, Ho, there is NO BODY HOME!”

The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?
"I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to
his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve." Jeremiah 17.9,10

HYPOCRITE is EAGER for MORE RECOGNITION

HUMBLE Christian EAGER to EXALT Jesus – Only HE is WORTHY!

Hypocrite DEMANDS Praise / Humble Christian DEFLECTS Praise to Jesus

GOSPEL changes OUR PRIORITIES > FIRST is to LOVE GOD with our ALL

ONLY when you have TRULY LOVED God can you TRULY Love Neighbor

I offer you my heart, Lord, promptly and sincerely. John Calvin

6 Woes // Isaiah 5 – 6 Woes on Israel for their Sins / Isaiah 6 > 7th Woe
NO 7th Woe from Pharisees or Lawyers > there SHOULD have BEEN

"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."
Isaiah 6.5

Woe is me, Lord, for I am the heartless legalist, I am the hateful rebel who hinders people from coming to Christ. God, save me by the cross where my sins sent Jesus to die. Philip Ryken

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalm 139:23

14. 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.

15. But some of them said, "By Beelzebub, the prince of demons, he is driving out demons."

16. Others tested him by asking for a sign from heaven.

17. Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: "Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall.

18. If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand? I say this because you claim that I drive out demons by Beelzebub.

19. Now if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your followers drive them out? So then, they will be your judges.

20. But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you.

21. "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe.

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

23. "He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters.

24. "When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.'

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

26. 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 man is worse than the first."

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

28. He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

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

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

31. The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with the men 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.

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

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

34. Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are bad, your body also is full of darkness.

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

36. Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and no part of it dark, it will be completely lighted, as when the light of a lamp shines on you."

37. When Jesus had finished speaking, a Pharisee invited him to eat with him; so he went in and reclined at the table.

38. But the Pharisee, noticing that Jesus did not first wash before the meal, was surprised.

39. 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.

40. You foolish people! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also?

41. But give what is inside [the dish] to the poor, and everything will be clean for you.

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

43. "Woe to you Pharisees, because you love the most important seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces.

44. "Woe to you, because you are like unmarked graves, which men walk over without knowing it."

45. One of the experts in the law answered him, "Teacher, when you say these things, you insult us also."

46. 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.

47. "Woe to you, because you build tombs for the prophets, and it was your forefathers who killed them.

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

49. 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.'

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

51. 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.

52. "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."

53. When Jesus left there, the Pharisees and the teachers of the law began to oppose him fiercely and to besiege him with questions,

54. waiting to catch him in something he might say.