

The Gospel of Luke 11:14–12:12

'By the finger of God'

03 & 07 December 2023

Structure of Luke's Gospel

- 1 Preface: Sponsor, method and purpose.
- 2 Birth narratives: Dawn of the promised new era.
- 3 John's mission: Introduce the Messiah.
- 4 Jesus' mission: Messiah's message and work.
- 5 **Journey: Messianic signs and teaching. Luke 9:51**
- 6 Jerusalem: Confront Israelite and Roman rulers.
- 7 Crucifixion: Last supper, arrest, trials, death.
- 8 Resurrection: Alive, appearance, and proofs.
- 9 Ascension: Gives Holy Spirit, mission to nations.

Jesus proves greater than the devil

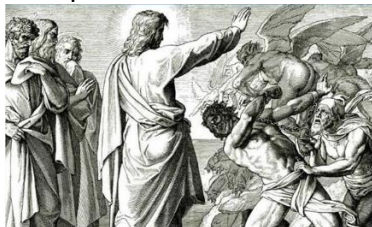
1. Than demons 11.14-26
2. Than doctrine 11.27-28
3. Than dogma 11.29-32
4. Than darkness 11.33-36
5. Than duties 11.37-44
6. Than deceit 11.45-53
7. Than duplicity 12.1-3
8. Than death 12.4-7
9. Than dread 12.8-10
10. Than doubt 12.11-12

Jesus is greater than demons, Luke 11:14-26

Read Luke 11:14-16

Jesus greater than demons

- Some mss read, "a mute demon".
- Beelzebul = Baal-zebul" (2 Kings 1:2) = "Belial" (2 Cor 6:15) = Beliar = Mastema = Sammael = the prince of demons.
- Judean accusations against Jesus and his apostles doing miracles by Satan's power continued through the second century.
- So, just what are demons? Psychosis? Rebel angels? Human ghosts? Bodiless creatures? 'Impure spirits'. Souls of drowned Nephilim?



Read Luke 11:17-20

Beelzebul

- Some mss & versions read 'Beelzebub'.
- "If I drive out..." 1st class condition = assumed to be true.
- Pharaoh's magicians about Moses' miracles (Exodus 8:19).
- Ba'al: Lord, master, husband, boss (Hebrew and cognate semitic languages).
- Ba'al-zəbûl: 'Lord of heaven/dwelling' (a Philistine god).
- Ba'al-zəbûb: 'Lord of flies' (Ugaritic, Greek), since flies were known to carry disease.

Read Luke 11:21-23

Interpretations

- Humans (who give in to temptation) can be invaded by a strong demon.
- Jesus overpowers demons, setting humans free from them.
- Religious leaders try rule over folk, until Jesus comes along and frees folk from religion.

Religion and demons

- Religions try to reform folk, sometimes by expelling demons, other times through counselling or acts of repentance.
- This provides temporary relief.
- However, impure spirits or harmful habits can return, stronger than before.
- So, God's Holy Spirit comes and lives in those who put their faith in Jesus.

Jesus is greater than doctrine, Luke 11:27-28

Jesus' mother (Mary)

- "Blessed is the mother" = 'veneration'. Some churches pray to Mary.
- Mary herself declared, "All generations will call me blessed!" (Luke 1:48).
- Mary gave only one command: "Do whatever [Jesus] tells you" (John 2:5).
- Jesus countered: "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it." v. 28

Jesus is greater than dogma, Luke 11:29-30, 32, 31

Read Luke 11:29-30, 32, 31

- Jonah was believed to have been swallowed by a great fish for three days.
- Ninevah City's population repented, when Jonah warned them of God's wrath.
- The queen of Sheba came to Jerusalem to learn wisdom from King Solomon.
- Jesus makes himself greater than both Jonah and Solomon.
- The Ninevites and the queen were Gentiles.

Jesus is greater than darkness, Luke 11:33-36

"Unhealthy eyes"

- One 3rd century ms & others omit 'or under a bowl'.
- "A man with an evil eye hastens after riches." Proverbs 28:22 NKJV
- "The Greek for unhealthy here implies stingy" NIV marginal note at verse 34.
- Jesus condemned those who leveraged religion to gain economic advantage.
- Politicians and bankers seek to impose global governance by leveraging finance and money supplies.

Jesus is greater than duties, Luke 11:37-53

Jesus on religion

- In ministerial circles, such chaps are affectionately called ‘doctrine inspectors’, for they are constantly listening for errors in others’ messages and teaching.
- Religions require you to perform rituals, to keep rules, and to share your riches.
- Jesus, releases us from hell after death, from our bad habits during our life time, and from religious requirements.

Jesus is greater than duplicity, Luke 12:1-3

Hypocrisy

- One 3rd century ms reads ‘of people’.
- One 3rd century ms omits ‘or hidden that will not be made known’.
- Hypocrisy: Pretending to be something that we know is not real. (This is different from being a weak example of what we are.)
- If you become a secret Christian, then eventually, others will find out.
- If it is dangerous to become a Christian, then baptize new believers in secret, and let the Lord decide when they should become exposed, if ever.

Jesus is greater than death, Luke 12:4-7

Death

- Two 4th century mss omit “fear”.
- Yahweh God created us to live with him.
- Our ancestors chose to obey the devil, causing physical death for all humans.
- If we repent and obey God, then he forgives us, promising to raise us to life someday.
- Jesus died and rose back to life, showing that there really is life after death.
- For those who refuse Christ, there will be a second death, separated from God forever.

Jesus is greater than dread, Luke 12:8-10

Forgivable

- A 4th and a 5th century mss read, ‘keeps on acknowledging’.
- The title “The Son of Man” was applied to the promised Messiah who was to become king of the world forever (Daniel 7).
- One can easily misunderstand ‘the Son of Man,’ so this is forgivable.
- “The Holy Spirit” was generally believed to be Yahweh’s invisible Spirit in the world.
- To worship another god in place of the Holy Creator God requires repentance.
- But to consciously, purposefully scorn or disparage the Holy Creator God may prove a one-way road to being scorned, in turn.

Jesus is greater than doubt, Luke 12:11-12

To hear from the Holy Spirit

- Two 5th century mss and others read, “stop worrying.”
- Listening to gifted teachers.
- Reading the Bible carefully.
- Asking for wisdom, expecting insight.
- Sensing needs and solutions.
- Having dreams, visions or imagination.

Advice

- Never violate known truth or conscience.
- Always honor Jesus; obey his commands.
- Let others critique your ideas.

Assignment

- Read: Luke 12:13-59
- Visit: luke.currah.download
- Compile: insights, queries & observations.