

I. Intro

A. Remember when we began Luke?

1. A letter to Theophilus, to "give certainty concerning what was taught" [Lk 1:4]
2. A book of reminders – teaching and application

B. Structure continues in Luke 11

1. Last week – Luke shows and expanding and growing kingdom (application)
2. This week – Luke shows inner workings of that kingdom (teaching)

II. Text

A. Luke 11:1-13

1. Disciples ask Jesus for a teaching on prayer
 - a) Question had two motivations
 - (1) Devout groups of the time had a unique prayer
 - (2) These men wanted to know how to pray correctly
 - b) Jesus teaches two perspectives
 - (1) Prayer is like talking to a father
 - (2) Prayer is like talking to a friend
2. *When you pray:*
 - a) *Approach God as a father*
 - (1) *Acknowledge His holiness and your desire for his ways over yours*
 - (2) *Ask him to supply your needs, work out forgiveness in you, and protection*
 - (3) *Not a prayer formula – teaches themes*
 - b) *Approach God as a friend*
 - (1) *God isn't a sleepy friend, inconvenienced by your prayer*
 - (2) *Parable calls our attention to the man at the door*
 - (3) *His persistence and boldness is our teaching*
3. *God is a better friend and father than anyone in this room*
 - a) *We know how to give good gifts and reward boldness – how much more*
 - b) *Therefore – Pray like this. Pray with boldness. And, expect a response*

B. Luke 11:14-28

1. More demons! Why does Luke include so many demon stories?
 - a) The backdrop of the visible world is the invisible world [Eph 6:12-13]
 - (1) Satan and his demons are at work on a global and local level
 - (2) Launch attacks on the mind and also the body
 - b) Luke wants us to see the spiritual battle and hear Jesus teach about it
2. Begins with Jesus casting out a demon – people react in two ways
 - a) He is a fraud, working with demons
 - b) People are unsure, they want more signs before they decide
3. Jesus responds to the first group – Jesus is working with demons
 - a) Impossible because a divided kingdom can't function
 - b) The finger of God [Ex 8:19] is doing this work and it works like this
 - (1) Think of a person as a home
 - (2) Strongman (demon) is running that home
 - (3) To bind the strongman, you need a stronger man (Jesus)
 - (4) Once the strongman is cast out, the home needs to be filled
 - (5) If not, that unclean spirit will come back worse than before
4. *This teaching is speaking at multiple levels*
 - a) *Addresses the level of demon possession*
 - b) *Addresses the level of evil working in this age*
 - (1) *Christ defeated the strongman with an empty grave [Col 2:15]*
 - (2) *But we are seeing a resurgence, a kind of 7 fold increase*
 - (3) *A swell of corruption, sexuality, perversion, luxury, intoxication*
 - c) *When creation rejects the creator there is always a resurgence of evil*
 - (1) *Not meant to leave us hopeless – Christ is always the stronger man*
 - (2) *Meant to inform our understanding of the world around us*
 - (3) *Meant to expose the deception of this age*
 - (a) *Coming spirituality and pharmakeia [Gal 5:20] of this world is a lie*
 - (b) *Pharmakeia – greek word for sorcery and witchcraft*
 - (c) *Drugs and the demonic pair in scripture – seeing a return of both*

5. Now, Jesus addresses the second group – want more signs before we decide

C. Luke 11:29-36

1. The demand for a sign is a sign of an evil generation
 - a) Jonah preached repentance, Nineveh did not require signs
 - b) Solomon taught wisdom to the queen of Sheeba, she did not require signs
 - c) Someone better than Jonah and Solomon are here – and you require signs?
2. More signs are not required – a response is required
 - a) What will you do with these teachings? Will you obey?
 - b) You can't sit on the fence when a better Jonah and Solomon has come
 - c) You must choose – put your faith in Christ and obey Him OR reject Him
3. After the invitation to respond, Jesus teaches on light and dark

III. Conclusion

- A. This parable may seem disconnected, it is not
 1. Parable explains what is going on with these people
 2. Explains why they are looking for a sign when they already have one
 3. Ultimately, drives to the heart of what we are all looking for
- B. It begins with the understanding of a lamp
 1. We light lamps so we can see – light and the eye are connected
 2. Jesus builds the parable on this connection
 3. Think of your eye like a lamp to the inner you
 - a) A healthy eye is like a bright lamp, illuminating the inner man
 - b) A bad eye is like a lamp with no light, spreading darkness to the inner man
- C. What you behold, colors the world you see and impacts the inner you
 1. Greedy eye? All you see is how to get more. How to work the angles.
 2. Judgmental eye? You don't see people, you see problems.
 3. This generation has an evil eye – all they want is more and more signs
- D. The final sentence is the word of exhortation today
 1. When your whole body is full of light, it shines out like rays from a lamp
 2. Meaning, you have beheld the light of God today – go spread it like shining rays