

'Luke' - Extra Teaching Points #19

Luke 11:33-54 (NASB95)

Luke 11:33-36

*"No one, after lighting a lamp, puts it away in a cellar nor under a basket, but on the lampstand, so that those who enter may see the light. ³⁴ "The eye is the lamp of your body; when **your eye is clear, your whole body also is full of light; but when it is bad, your body also is full of darkness.** ³⁵ "Then watch out that the light in you is not darkness. ³⁶ "If therefore your whole body is full of light, with no dark part in it, it will be wholly illumined, as when the lamp illumines you with its rays."*

This teaching is also found in [Matt 6:22-23](#).

- The reference to a "good eye" and a "bad eye" is a typical Hebraism for generosity and greed.
- Jesus is teaching that your attitude toward money is indicative of the state of your whole life.

Luke 11:37-44

*"Now when He had spoken, a Pharisee *asked Him to have lunch with him; and He went in, and reclined at the table. ³⁸ When the Pharisee saw it, **he was surprised that He had not first ceremonially washed before the meal.** ³⁹ But the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and of the platter; but inside of you, you are full of robbery and wickedness. ⁴⁰ "You foolish ones, did not He who made the outside make the inside also? ⁴¹ "**But give that which is within as charity, and then all things are clean for you.** ⁴² But woe to you Pharisees! For you pay tithe of mint and rue and every kind of garden herb, and yet disregard justice and the love of God; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others. ⁴³ "Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the chief seats in the synagogues and the respectful greetings in the market places. ⁴⁴ "**Woe to you! For you are like concealed tombs, and the people who walk over them are unaware of it."***

Vs 38 At this time, washing hands wasn't about hygiene, it was about ceremonial cleanness.

- God gave Israel ceremonial laws to teach them about living in His presence.
- The Pharisees had defined uncleanness so broadly that, if the wind blowing across Samaria happened to blow across your face, you were considered unclean.
- The obligation to wash for cleansing from ceremonial uncleanness had morphed into washing several times a day, because you were always becoming unclean by their man-made standards.
 - Then the ritual for how you had to wash became more and more elaborate. They developed quite a system around these washings.
- Jesus didn't care about all these rituals; so He ignored them.
- That's what the Pharisee marveled at—Jesus ignored the rabbinic rules!

Vs 42-44 The parallel to these two verses is found in [Matt 23:13-33](#) where Jesus gives an expanded list of seven woes.

- Jesus is teaching that we must give from our hearts, and not just make an outward gesture.
- No amount of pouring of water can make up for a wrong state in the inward life.
- Jesus is returning again to attitudes toward money and possessions, which seems to be a focus from [vs. 33](#) on.
- The Pharisees are full of greed and wickedness, but they could cleanse themselves by having a "good eye"—being generous.

Vs 44 According to the Law, if you came in contact with a grave, you became ceremonially unclean.

- In Matt 23:27-28, Jesus said it slightly differently. He said they were like, *“whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness.”*
 - This refers to the fact that the Jews – especially around Jerusalem during festival times when there were tons of visitors in town who wouldn’t know where the graves were – would whitewash tombs so people wouldn’t accidentally come into contact with them, and become ceremonially unclean.
 - They typically used caves for burying the dead.
 - A tomb might look like any other cave to a visitor.
 - People commonly used caves like we use port-a-potties.
 - The Jews would whitewash these caves/tombs so that visitors would know not to go in them.
 - These caves would look clean on the outside, but there were things on the inside that would defile you. Jesus was basically saying, “You Pharisees are just like that!”
 - They looked clean on the outside, but inside them were things that would defile people!
- Here in verse 44, Jesus said the Pharisees were like hidden tombs.
 - The general meaning is the same; except that in this case, there was no warning given to people.

Luke 11:45-52

*“One of the lawyers *said to Him in reply, “Teacher, when You say this, You insult us too.”⁴⁶ But He said, “Woe to you lawyers as well! For you weigh men down with burdens hard to bear, while you yourselves will not even touch the burdens with one of your fingers.⁴⁷ “Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets, and it was your fathers who killed them.⁴⁸ “So you are witnesses and approve the deeds of your fathers; because it was they who killed them, and you build their tombs.⁴⁹ “For this reason also the wisdom of God said, ‘I will send to them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and some they will persecute,⁵⁰ so that the blood of all the prophets, shed since the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation,⁵¹ from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the house of God; yes, I tell you, it shall be charged against this generation.’⁵² “Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge; you yourselves did not enter, and you hindered those who were entering.”*

Jesus said they were partners with their ancestors who killed the prophets.

- In Matt 23:29-37, Jesus said they were putting decorations on the monuments and tombs built for the prophets – *the same prophets their fathers killed* – saying, all the while, that if they had lived back then, they would have opposed their fathers.
- But Jesus said they would prove they are partners with their fathers, because they were going to kill Him just like their fathers killed the prophets before Him.

Vs 50 It was this generation that was destroyed in 70AD by the Romans.

- God pronounced judgment on all of Israel, and put an end to her by destroying that final generation.

Vs 51 Able is listed as one of the prophets and apostles sent by God.

- This suggests that even in the first generation after Eden, God was already sending servants to correct His people.

[Vs 52](#) The lawyers professed to expound the meaning of the Law, and thus to be the teachers of the people; but in fact, they have *taken away the key of knowledge*—the key that unlocks the meaning of Scripture and brings people to the knowledge of God.

- Their methods were such that people could not get at the essential meaning of God’s word.
- Instead of opening up the treasures of knowledge, the lawyers turned the Bible into a book of obscurities, and a bundle of riddles which only the experts could understand.
 - The experts were so pleased and preoccupied with the mysteries *they* had manufactured, that they missed the wonderful thing that God was saying.
 - They, themselves, neither entered, nor allowed others to enter.
- Ordinary people were on their way to the knowledge of God... until these teachers turned them away.

[Luke 11:53-54](#)

“When He left there, the scribes and the Pharisees began to be very hostile and to question Him closely on many subjects, ⁵⁴ plotting against Him to catch Him in something He might say.”

It is interesting that, in all the hard things Jesus said to them, they couldn’t catch Him in saying anything that was wrong!

- They couldn’t deny they were guilty of the things Jesus said about them.
- And yet, they didn’t repent or change. Instead, they wanted to discredit and silence Him.

Follow Up Assignment

Q: Do you have a ‘good eye’... or a ‘bad eye’?

Q: The Pharisees were mostly a greedy bunch. What were they greedy for?

- Are you greedy for some of the same things? If so, what must you do?

Q: The Pharisees and Scribes wanted to silence Jesus by discrediting Him. Do you ever try to silence Jesus? If so, why and how?