

Late Judean Ministry—A House Divided (November 32)

Luke 11:14–36

14 And He was casting out a demon, and it was mute; when the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke; and the crowds were amazed.

15 But some of them said, “He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons.”

16 Others, to test *Him*, were demanding of Him a sign from heaven.

17 But He knew their thoughts and said to them, “Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and a house *divided* against itself falls.

18 If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul.

19 And if I by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast them out? So they will be your judges.

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

21 When a strong *man*, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are undisturbed.

22 But when someone stronger than he attacks him and overpowers him, he takes away from him all his armor on which he had relied and distributes his plunder.

23 He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me, scatters.

24 “When the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and not finding any, it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’

25 And when it comes, it finds it swept and put in order.

26 Then it goes and takes *along* seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first.”

27 While Jesus was saying these things, one of the women in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, “Blessed is the womb that bore You and the breasts at which You nursed.”

28 But He said, “On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.”

29 As the crowds were increasing, He began to say, “This generation is a wicked generation; it seeks for a sign, and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah. [cf. [Jonah 3](#)]

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

31 The Queen of the South will rise up with the men of this generation at the judgment and condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here. [cf. [1 Kgs 10:1–3](#)]

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

33 “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.”

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Chronological Notes

- 1) Thomas & Gundry comment on Luke 11:15—“The same accusation was made about a year before when a similar debate ensued. Jesus used the same three arguments he had used on the earlier occasion. That the two encounters were distinct from each other is seen by three factors: 1) Luke appears to place this debate in Judea while the earlier one was in Galilee. 2) In Luke’s account the man healed is dumb, but in

Matthew's he is blind and dumb. Luke, in line with his medical orientation, would hardly have failed to mention the blindness if this were the man's condition. 3) Events that follow the two episodes are quite different, namely, the initiation of parabolic teaching in the earlier case and breakfast with a Pharisee in the later."¹

¹ Robert L. Thomas & Stanley N. Gundry, *A Harmony of the Gospels: New American Standard Edition*, (Moody Press 1978), 139.