

Luke 11:29-54 - An Evil Generation Seeks a Sign

Luke 11:29-30 ESV When the crowds were increasing, he began to say, "This generation is an ***evil generation***. It ***seeks for a sign***, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah. For as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so will the Son of Man be to this generation.

An Evil Generation Seeks for a Sign

Word evil is used 6x in this chapter --- suggests a theme (Luke 11:4, 13, 26, 29, 34, 39)

- vs 4 ... And lead us not into temptation; but ***deliver us from evil***.
- vs 13 KJV ***If ye then, being evil***, know how to give good gifts unto your children...
- vs 26 - heart is swept but empty - seven other spirits ***more evil*** enter and dwell there
- vs 29 - ***evil generation*** seeks a sign
- vs 34 - ***your eye is evil*** - (how you look at things) your body is full of darkness
- vs 39 - Pharisees clean the outside, but inside they were full of ***wickedness***

Evil or Wicked Definition [Strong's 4190]

- **Evil** = *hurtful*, that is, *evil* (properly **in effect or influence**) figuratively *calamitous*; also (passively) *ill*, that is, *diseased*; but especially (morally) *culpable*, that is, *derelict*, *vicious*, *facinorous*; neuter (singular) *mischievous*, *malice*, or (plural) *guilt*; masculine (singular) the *devil*, or (plural) *sinner*:

Deliver us from evil

In the context of the chapter "Deliver us from evil" seems to be more than just protecting us from the evil one - and includes delivering us from evil [its effect and/or influence upon my life/heart] -- in a sense Jesus says to pray "DELIVER US FROM EVIL" --- BECAUSE the effects of it are all around and very evident in the lives of others as he continues to teach here

Can the heart of a Christian be affected or influenced by evil?

- James 4:13-16 NIV Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." (14) Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. (15) Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." (16) As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. ***All such boasting is evil.***
- James 2:3-4 NIV If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," (4) have you not discriminated among yourselves and ***become judges with evil thoughts?***
- Hebrews 3:12 KJV Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you ***an evil heart of unbelief***, in departing from the living God.

Insights to Avoid Evil

As He is reproofing (1) the evil generation seeking a sign; (2) to the person with the evil eye that ultimately affects their heart and (3) to the Pharisee whose heart is full of greed and wickedness - **His reproof carries insight** as to how to overcome the effect of evil [don't seek a sign - seek something else instead] -- [don't have an evil eye -- have a good eye] --- [clean the inside of the cup]

1) Seek Wisdom

Luke 11:31 The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them, for ***she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon***, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.

She came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon.

- 1500 mile journey from Sheba [modern Yemen] to Jerusalem
- 50-60 days - camels can travel 25-30 miles per day
- She would have had servants, maids, cooks, men to tend the camels, food, clothing, tents bedding, etc., etc., etc.

She brought an abundance of gifts to Solomon - 1 Kings 10:10

- 120 talents of gold and large quantities of spices, and precious stones. *“Never again were so many spices brought in as those the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.”*
- A camel can carry 200-300 lbs -- she would have needed 30 - 45 camels for the gold alone

How much gold?

- 120 Talents (talent = 75 pounds) = 4 ½ tons @ \$1,260 an ounce = **\$181,440,00**

WISDOM

- Proverbs 3:14-15 NIV Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding, (14) for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. (15) She is more precious than rubies; ***nothing you desire can compare with her.***

WISDOM FROM ABOVE --- OR NOT - It has an affect on my heart

- Jas 3:13-17 KJV Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. 14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. 15 ***This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.*** 16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every ***evil work.*** 17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

2) Seek An Attitude of Easy Repentance

Luke 11:32 The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, ***for they repented at the preaching of Jonah***, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.

Look how Nineveh responded (Jonah 3:4-10)

- The Ninevites **believed** God [All of them, from the greatest to the least]
- They fasted - put on sackcloth
- **King's decree** Let everyone **call urgently on God - give up their evil ways**
- Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish."

Repentance seems hard because it goes against my will

--but it is easy because it is to simply change your mind and say "I will"

- Matthew 21:28-31 KJV But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. (29) He answered and said, I will not: but **afterward he repented, and went**. (30) And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. (31) Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.

3) Seek A Receptive Eye to God's Word

Luke 11:33-36 "No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a basket, but on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. (34) Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, **but when it is bad [evil]**, your body is full of darkness. (35) Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness. (36) If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light."

Jesus has been lighting a lamp they were putting it in a cellar & under a basket

- Psalms 119:130 ESV The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.

How do we receive the preaching/teaching of Christ?

- Heb 3:7-8 ..."Today, if you hear his voice, 8 **do not harden your hearts** as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness,
- Psa 119:18 Open my eyes, **that I may behold wondrous things** out of thy law.

4) Seek to Grow Inwardly, Not Just In Outward Action

Luke 11:37-44 While Jesus was speaking, a Pharisee asked him to dine with him, so he went in and reclined at table. (38) The Pharisee was astonished to see that he did not first wash before dinner. (39) And the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, **but inside** you are full of greed and **wickedness**. (40) You fools! Did not he who made the outside make the inside also?"

- Psalms 139:23-24 ESV Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! (24) And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!
- Eph 3:16 KJV That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be **strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man**;