

A Synopsis of Luke 11

By Dave DeWitt

Luke 11:1-4, The “Lord’s Prayer”

This is not just an abbreviated form of the Lord’s Prayer in Matthew 6. The Matthew prayer was part of the “Sermon On the Mount” up north in Galilee, but this instruction was in Jerusalem. The Matthew instruction was at Jesus’ initiative; this was a request from the disciples.

Luke 11:5-13, *Seek and you shall find*

The sample prayer is followed by instruction about prayer from two stories. Both tell us to be persistent in prayer, but each has a unique emphasis. The first is about a friend who is reluctant to lend some food, but persistence pays off. The point is, *for everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened.* The second story is about a father who gives his son what he asks for, not something less. The point is, *if you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?*

Luke 11:14-23, The accusation, “He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons.”

This accusation gets a lengthy answer. **First**, Jesus pointed out the absurdity of suggesting that Satan is casting out his own demons. **Second**, He pointed out that their leaders cast out demons without that accusation. **Third**, He said, *“if I cast out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.”* **Fourth**, He pointed out that the stronger man will prevail in a struggle, indicating that His casting out demons proves that He represents a stronger kingdom than Satan’s. Then Jesus gave His conclusion: *“He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me, scatters.”*

Luke 11:24-26, The “unclean spirit...passes through waterless places,” and returns.

The phony exorcists, like those mentioned in verse 19, can cast out some demons. But the exorcised demon wants to possess a body. Finding none, it returns and finds the one it possessed still unsaved but having cleaned up his life, so the demon invites 7 others to join him. Therefore, *“the last state of that man becomes worse than the first.”* Like Mormonism where you have cleaned up people practicing pagan idolatry, they worship a god from the planet Kolob.

Luke 11:27-28, A Woman said, “Blessed is the womb that bore You.”

Jesus responded with, *“On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.”* It’s not the woman that bore Him but the Father that sent Him, who should be the focus of your blessing. Notice Jesus did not say something like, **“Yes my mother is blessed but also observe the word of God.”** This should eliminate any attempt to equate His mother Mary with the Word of God.

Luke 11:29-32, Jesus Is Greater than Jonah and Solomon

God’s revelation came through Jonah and Solomon, but now with Jesus, greater revelation was here.

Luke 11:33-54, Woe to The, Pharisees, And Lawyers

Jesus began this long section with two short parables. The light on the lampstand was Christ’s message, but the eyes of the Pharisees were dark so they can’t take in the light. Next, Jesus had lunch with a Pharisee, without washing His hands. **Then He pointed out the hypocrisy of the Pharisees.** With 3 comments: (1) They clean themselves outside but not inside. (2) They tithe *yet disregard justice and the love of God.* (3) They love honor and respect. **Then He offended the lawyers.** With 3 more comments: (1) They *weigh men down with burdens* that they are unwilling to bear. (2) They are just as bad as their forefathers who killed the prophets, while pretending to honor the prophets. (3) They *have taken away the key of knowledge.* From then on, the Pharisees were *plotting against Him to catch Him in something He might say.*

Comments and Applications on the Lord’s Prayer from Luke 11

- *Father, hallowed be Your name.* Begin prayer with worship.
- *Your kingdom come.* The prayer is for God to bring about His kingdom. There is nothing in the Bible which says we should bring about God’s kingdom.
- *Give us each day our daily bread.* But most of us want meat, lettuce, pickles and mayo, too.
- *And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.* Many are hesitant to forgive people who have offended them, relatives or business associates, etc. when those people have not asked for forgiveness. The question is, do you want God to forgive you of the things you have done to offend Him?
- *And lead us not into temptation.* The word is the same for temptation and testing. Never ask God for either.