

Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church
Notes on Luke 11 (Sunday School August 23, 2020)

Luke 1:1-13

Before we read Luke 11, we need to remember what we read in Luke 10:38-42, concerning Mary and Martha. The story of Mary and Martha is lesson in worship. Sitting at the feet of Jesus is worship. We sit at Jesus' feet when we read, study and adhere to God's Word. God's Word is the focus of Sunday Worship and Sunday School. That is why it is so important for us to be present on Sundays, so that we, like Mary, can sit at the feet of Jesus. Even if we have much to do in the world, it is important to stop, leave that work, and sit at the feet of Jesus and learn from Him.

It makes sense then that Luke 11:1-13 would focus on prayer. Worship (sitting at the feet of Jesus) will lead us into prayer. Here Jesus teaches His disciples, and us, how to pray. Jesus defines God for us in the first petition. God is Father. Now, this is a brand new concept for those being taught this prayer. They viewed God in many different ways, most of which were that God was distant and unapproachable. The mystery of God's identity is now in plain sight. In, through and by Jesus we can now approach God as our Father. This is an amazing reality, that many of us take for granted. Never take for granted the reality that God approaches us as Father, through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Jesus reveals a new identity for God, as Father, He then moves on to define how God functions as Father, and that is the One who brings a new kingdom of heaven to the fallen kingdom of the world. The kingdom of God is the forgiveness of sins. The kingdom of God is the restoration of creation through the blood of Jesus Christ, and this only through the forgiveness of Jesus, given and received at the cross of Calvary.

In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus then moves to show how God will function on a daily basis in the midst of a fallen world. God provides daily bread. He provides daily bread to both the righteous and the unrighteous. The righteous understand and recognize that it IS indeed God who provides daily bread, that is, everything we need in this life to sustain us from day to day. The unrighteous will give thanks and praise to themselves, or to anything, except God for daily supply.

Jesus then moves into the reality of the coming kingdom of God. The kingdom coming, is Jesus Himself, coming into the world for the purpose that the world will be redeemed through Him. Sins are forgiven through Jesus. When our sins are forgiven by God through Jesus Christ, then we are bound to forgive those who have sinned against us.

Jesus then leads us to pray that we would not be led into temptation. Jesus was led into temptation by the Holy Spirit, after His baptism. This temptation of Jesus was necessary, so that the evil foe would not be bound to tempt us. The temptation of Jesus, and His victory over that temptation, accomplishes for us the victory over the one who would tempt, namely, Satan himself. Now, it is the case that we, through our sin continue to invite the demonic into our lives; this is called sin. God does not allow us to reside in that sin, therefore, God causes in us, by the power of His Holy Spirit, daily contrition and daily repentance, and ultimately daily forgiveness. Through this daily life of faith we put to death sin in us,

through the blood of Jesus, and then rise up by the power of God's Holy Spirit to live lives of sanctification, only through God and His Word.

Jesus then moves on to solidify the prayer by relating it to the power of daily life, as it relates to the world. Jesus talks about a friend who is in need of bread; daily bread. He goes, at midnight, to ask his friend for bread. It is only through the persistent pounding on the door that the request will be granted. How much more then will God give to us all that is needed. Jesus then relates God relationship with us to a human father. Would a human father give his son a serpent when he asks for a fish? Of course not! So then, How much more will God give to us all that we need!

Luke 11:14-23

Jesus casts out a demon, and caused a mute man to speak. Jesus has power over the demonic. The demons are subject to Jesus. That is extremely important to realize. What is even more amazing is that some said that Jesus was able to cast these demons out by the power of Beelzebul. They are wrong. They are wrong in the most evil way. This is the definition of blasphemy. Jesus then teaches truth. A house cannot be divided against itself, or else that kingdom will fall. There is an inference here. It is inferred by Jesus that the Kingdom of God is unified in and through God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Whereas the kingdom of evil seeks to divide.

Luke 11:24-26

Jesus reveals that unclean spirits are seeking "places of rest". A place of rest for an unclean spirit is within an unclean person. Unclean spirits will find no rest within the righteous, because those unclean spirits will have to contend with the righteousness of God's Son. Those unclean spirits will bring with them a squad of evil for the purpose of making a dwelling place for themselves.

Luke 11:27-28

Here, Jesus teaches that true blessedness are those who hear the Word of God and keep it!

Luke 11:29-32

The sign of Jonah is the call to repentance. The call to and for repentance echoes down from generation to generation. As generations ignore the call to repentance, then they will be judged more harshly than any of those cities in Scripture who met with the wrath of God. Nineveh repented, and because of their repentance, they will rise up in judgment of those who today ignore the same call to repentance that they themselves adhered to.

Luke 11:33-36

Jesus is the light of the world. To receive Jesus once a day and then place him back on the shelf Monday through Saturday. If this is the game we play with God, then we are taking a light and putting a bowl over that light. It makes no sense whatsoever. Light is meant to be put on a stand and held high. So

too, Jesus is meant to be the light of our lives at all times. Where there is the light of Christ, darkness is dispersed and the corners of our lives are bright with the light of Christ's forgiveness.

Luke 11:37-54

When we hear the word Pharisee we need to think "the self righteous" The self righteous are those who "think" they are righteous by their own deeds, life, ability etc. The self righteous have no need for Christ's righteousness, because they find their righteousness within themselves. This is wrong. Self righteousness is the enemy of Christ's righteousness. The heart of the self righteous is tainted, rotten and black; it is full of darkness and the light of Christ cannot reside there. Those who are righteous through Jesus have clean hearts, purified by God through the Holy Spirit and from them radiate the light of Jesus. Upon this teaching, the self righteous Pharisees and scribes seek to catch Jesus and want to ruin him. They are bound to fail, because they are contending against God's own Son.