



STORIES OF LIFE!

The Gospel of Luke

A Mistaken Story!

Luke 11:14-36

Message #37 of 50 – S817

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Sunday Morning Service

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A Mistaken Story!

Luke 11:14-36

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Luke 11**
- We continue a study through the Gospel of Luke – **The Stories of Life**
- Throughout history there have been cases of mistaken identity
- Cases where someone has been accused of something because they resembled someone else
- And that mistake resulted in innocent people going to prison or even being executed
- In those cases, it is the mis-identified person who suffers
- Today, we are going to look at an account of people making mistakes about the identity of Jesus
- And we will look at why that is a problem
- You see, Jesus doesn't suffer if we are mistaken about His identity
- Being mistaken about who Jesus is can have eternal consequences
- And my prayer for this message is that we would all get to know Jesus better as we look into this account
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **A Mistaken Story!**
- People often didn't know what to think of Jesus
- Even while He was doing radical, supernatural things
- **Luke 11:14**
- It is hard to imagine what it would have been like for this poor man
- He had a demon living in him – caused him to be mute – unable to speak
- Jesus sets this man free by casting out the demon – crowds amazed
- Not everyone seems to appreciate what just happened
- First mistake – **Religious Rejection**
- **Luke 11:15**
- Jesus is doing everything the Scriptures said He would do

- But He is not doing it the way the religious establishment expects Him to do it – they don't believe Jesus is the Messiah/ Savior/Christ
- Unbelief will undermine, dismiss, or despise clear evidence of God's power, love, and grace.
- Beelzebub = another name for Satan = Lord of the flies
- Saying, Jesus can cast out demons because He is working for Satan
- Others wanted to see more – Second mistake – **Willful Unbelief**
- **Luke 11:16**
- Show us a miracle to prove you are the Messiah
- Maybe they were sleeping when Jesus just cast out the demon and freed the mute man to speak
- Jesus confronts the first group with logic
- **Luke 11:17-19**
- If Satan is casting out his demons, then he is working to destroy his own kingdom – not likely
- What about the other Jews who are casting out demons?
- **Luke 11:20**
- This is an accusation of blasphemy against God
- Saying you have made a mistake – then gives them a simile to help them see who He is
- **Luke 11:21-22**
- Satan is the strong man – and Jesus is the 'stronger than he'
- Satan is immensely strong, far more powerful than any human
- But God is infinitely more powerful
- This is important for us to remember – Satan is far more powerful than we, and so are his demons
- But we don't have to be afraid of them **1 John 4:4**
- **You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.**
- The religious guys don't want to believe in Jesus, so they fabricate reasons to reject Him - There is a consequence for that
- **Luke 11:23**
- There is no middle ground with Jesus – there is no neutral position
- There are people in the world who want to believe that all roads lead to God – say Jesus is 'a' way to heaven **John 14:6**

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

- Jesus is ‘the’ way – the only way to heaven
- If someone is mistaken about that – they will miss heaven
- Jesus set the mute man free – now warns that we are not free to live just any way we want
- **Luke 11:24-26**
- The religious guys believed that they could be right with God by doing the works of the law – by obeying all the rules of their religion
- Jesus tells them they are mistaken – they might be able to clean up their life for a little while, but it won’t last
- We were created to be receptacles of God, to be a dwelling place of the Holy Spirit **Ephesians 5:18**

And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit...

- ‘be filled’ = be being filled
- It is a mistake to think you can clean up your life in your own strength
- If you want your life to be better – accept Christ as your Savior
- He will give you the Holy Spirit to fill you and enable you to live the life He wants you to
- Luke records another interaction that addresses another mistake
- Third mistake – **Simple Ignorance**

• **Luke 11:27-28**

- This woman is obviously moved and impressed by Jesus
- And she makes what might be an innocent expression of praise
- Some of our mistakes are because we just don’t know any better
- The woman says that Jesus’ mother, Mary is blessed
- The angel Gabriel said the same thing **Luke 1:28**

And having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!”

- Jesus responds, almost as if He knows how people are going to relate to His mother in the future
- He says here that anyone who hears and obeys God’s Word will be as blessed as Mary is
- This makes worshipping Mary or praying to her a little silly, even sinful - It would be like me worshipping or praying to Randy

- She can't hear or answer prayers – only God does
 - Now Jesus deals with the ones who wanted a sign – a miracle
 - **Luke 11:29-30**
 - Some say the story of Jonah is just a story – didn't happen
 - Jesus disagrees **Matthew 12:30**
- For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.**
- The account of Joan was a foreshadowing of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ - He is saying that is the only sign we need
 - If you need a miracle to believe God = 'an evil generation' – repent
 - The death, burial, and resurrection is the only miracle we should need to believe that Jesus is God and can save us
 - Any other miracle God works in your life is an outpouring of His amazing grace
 - **Luke 11:31-32**
 - The queen of the south (Sheba) and the people of Nineveh had a lot less to go on than you do, and they believed
 - You have the whole Bible as evidence – no excuse – just believe
 - Jesus concludes this section calling us to examine ourselves
 - **Luke 11:33-36**
 - Maybe you have heard the saying, 'The eye is the window to the soul' – may have originated here
 - What Jesus is saying that what your eye wants to see is what gets into your heart
 - The religious guys rejected Jesus as Messiah, and so saw Him as being in league with Satan
 - The ones asking for a sign, chose simply not to believe, and so Jesus refused to give them a sign, because it wouldn't cause them to believe
 - What your eye chooses to see is what gets into your heart
 - Let me give you an example out of my own life
 - When Kelly and I met, she was a believer and I wasn't
 - At that time in my life I rejected all religion as a man-made institution designed to control and take advantage of people
 - As Kelly tried to share with me – all she saw in my eyes was rejection
 - I didn't reject her – I rejected her religion – and I did it for a long time

- But then there came a point in my life when I became curious about her religion – she was doing it differently than what I thought it was
 - And so, I decided to read the Bible – the book she believed was the Word of God – that she believed was truth
 - Here's the key – I decided to read it as if it were true
 - I knew that my logical mind would reveal to me if it wasn't true
 - This wasn't the first time I had tried to read the Bible, but it was the first time I read it with good eyes
 - Before I had read looking for mistakes, errors, and contradictions – my eyes were bad, and all I saw was bad
 - And God met me there and revealed Himself to me and saved my soul
 - If you don't want to believe what God says, you won't
 - You will find a reason not to believe
 - But if you want to believe God and His Word, you will, even when you don't understand
 - Look at verse 35 again **Luke 11:35**
 - Whose responsibility is it to know what is inside our heart? Your pastor? Your spouse? Your parent?
 - Three mistakes
 - First – **Religious Rejection**
 - Accept Jesus for who the Bible says He is, not what your religion says, or your religious attitudes tell you
 - Second – **Willful Unbelief**
 - Choose to believe God and His Word
 - Third – **Simple Ignorance**
 - Grow in knowledge through God's Spirit and His Word – accepting and believing
 - As you do, your life will be filled with light, not just any light **John 8:12**
- Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."**
- Jesus is writing His story in your life, let Him in, and walk in His perfect light and it will be a good story!
 - **Pray!**