

- vs 19: What power do the **Jewish Exorcists** use?!
- vs 20: In fact, **this is “the Finger of God”** (Ex 8:15). This means that the Power of the Holy Spirit is present. God has restored His Son.

Cf. Is 5:20 (NB) If they accuse God of being Satan; of Good as being evil, they have committed the **unpardonable sin**. There is no hope for them.

### Jesus explains his Exorcisms: (11:21-22)

- Satan is a strong man guarding the territory **humans give him by sin**
  - Jesus is **THE STRONGER ONE** who attacks and defeats him: (10:17-20)
- **AND DISARMS** him, taking his captives and setting them free: **This is spiritual warfare.**

vs 23: We are either on Jesus’ side – or on Satan’s side.

- We cannot be undecided or we fall under Satan’s influence.

### Recovery after Exorcism: (11:24-26)

It is not enough to be delivered from demonic influence.

- The demons **refuse** to go back to Hell. They wander around looking for another human soul to inhabit...
- If the delivered person is **NOT now full of the Holy Spirit** and Grace, the demons will return, bringing other wicked spirits to cement their hold on that individual... **who may be a lost soul by then.**

### The Truly Blessed: (11:27-28)

Those who hear the Word of God (10:38-42) **AND** put it into practice!

\*Hearing is not enough: living it is the response: (8:15)

### What does “Hearing the Word of God” mean? (11:29-32)

- The crowds seek a sign → but **so many** have **already** been given!
- Jesus asks them to learn from History:
  - 1) Jesus **is** the rejected Sign (2:34)
  - 2) **The Sign of Jonah** – the ‘dead and risen’ prophet points to Jesus’ **Sign**
    - this dead and risen prophet **BECAME** a sign to the foreigners in Ninevah: (2 Chron 9:1-12)
  - 3) The **Queen of the South** (Sheba) came a great distance to hear wisdom from the King of the Jews : Jesus is Incarnate Wisdom...
    - : Jesus is **THE** King of the Jews

(NB) Jonah preached / Nineveh repented (ie) **HEARD** the Word **AND ACTED** on it.

### Second Parable of the Lamp

(cf. 8:16-18 – the lamp of revelation is to be shared with everyone, not hidden)

- Here the parable is a warning to Christian disciples not to let their wisdom turn to folly... their enlightenment become darkness...
- \* We distort God’s Word **through** prejudice, sin, disobedience to God’s Word, etc.

→ Jesus now pronounces 'woes' of judgement on **those** who **refused** "to hear the Word of God and put it into practice": (11:28)

### Pharisees et al Exposed: (11:37-54)

In the last unit Jesus warned us not to let our "light" turn to darkness - our "wisdom" to become folly.

- Here he is invited by the religious leaders to dine with them...
  - These people were devoted to the Law of Moses and all the strictest observances
  - One would **expect** holiness from them but the Word of God Incarnate is about to expose their **true INNER condition** - like an x-ray machine!
- **The Light** is about to expose the darkness...
- **The Truth** is about to expose corruption and evil...

### The Occasion

- Jesus is invited to dinner (11:37) and he sits down at table without going through the Jewish washing ritual. Cf. 7:36
- In 7:36-50 the Pharisees criticized Jesus' behaviour towards a sinner...
- Here in 11:37 – Pharisees criticize **Jesus' own behaviour!**
- Of course, **we** know that **The Holy One of God** (4:34) does not need cleansing.
- We **also** know that Jesus is bringing the Mosaic Law to its completion on The Cross, So, he does not have to act as if these rituals were still valid.

### Jesus, the Judge:

The searing Light of God's Truth now goes behind the **outward appearance** of **Service to God** to see what lies **BEHIND IT**. [The habit does not make the monk!]

\* It is the **condition of the heart** that makes **us** good or bad: (cf. Luke 6:43-45; Matt 12:33-37)

v 39: Outwardly clear... inwardly corrupt! ... this is the problem

v 41: The solution is **to give alms** with **love**, mercy and compassion: (12:33)

v 42: You are 'picky' about  $\frac{1}{10}$ th of all garden herbs, ... **very minor** thing but you neglect the **GREAT ISSUES** of justice / love Cf. **Good Samaritan**

S: You should **KEEP** God's Law! - great or small

v 43: You seek honour, position and power, therefore do not give glory to **God**. No solution given here: **Just judgement**: you are spiritually dead!! (9:60)

∴ In Jesus' Judgement Israel's leaders have let their **lamp go out!** Cf. Foolish Virgins - their 'light' has turned to darkness because of corruption.

**LESSON**: observing religious rituals is no substitute **for morality**

- The cure for extortion and greed is not **ritual washing** of hands
- → it is **generous alms-giving**! Their ill-gotten gains should be given to help the poor.

Notice How this contrasts with the Blessedness of those who “hear the Word of God and keep it”: 11:28

### **Leadership Gone Wrong:** (11:45-54) **The Lawyers**

Jesus pronounces 3 woes on them:

- 1) They burden others with laws that they do not observe themselves! Cf. Mk 11:28-30
  - These are man-made laws, found in the Talmud... which **Pharisees** obey
  - Only **God's Law** and **Will are obligatory**.

- 2) (47-51) Now comes a very serious and sad revelation from Christ!

- In the Old Testament period God had sent great prophets to Israel. Most of them had been very badly treated and killed by God's people.

- A later generation built the tombs of the prophets and venerated them
  - **But now** was **the greatest divine visitation** that History would **ever** witness
  - But **this generation** would murder is Messiah, the Son of God
  - Not only that, it would persecute the **new prophets** and **missionaries**

→ Because of this, the Judgement that God reserved to the **Great Day of the Lord** would come down on **this** generation: [**Yom Yahweh**]

- a) 65-70 AD Jewish war: destruction of Temple and City of Jerusalem
- b)
- c) Jerusalem was changed **into a secular city**: (21:20-24; 1 Th 2:14-16)  
(135 AD) Rome expelled the Jews from Jerusalem to Palestine.

- 3) **The Key of Knowledge:** (11:52-54)

Jesus accused the lawyers of making the Word of God **so obscure** because of their intellectualising.

The result was that the original **grace** of the **Word** was lost.

**This** was what prevented the **people** from being able to “hear the Word of God and obey it”!

(NB) **Exegesis** that obscures God's Will – that becomes a mere intellectual exercise – that is divorced from its original purpose of revealing God's Merciful Presence and Will to His People...  
**is self-condemned!**

## END OF FIRST SECTION OF "THE GOING"

- Ⓝ This First section of The Going **began** with Mary sitting at the feet of Jesus, listening to and absorbing God's Word (10:38-42); **praised** those who hear the Word of God and keep it (11:28); **ends with condemning those who don't hear and do the Word.**

### Result of Confrontation between Jesus and Religious Leaders (11:53-54)

- 1) Their rejection turns to hatred and
  - 2) They begin to openly attack him
- } the hunt for the **Victim** has begun
- 3) Their rejection of the Word makes one a **persecutor** of **the Word**: (49-51)  
Cf. 6:11; 19:47; 20:19; 22:2

## CHAPTER 12:

### The Church will be Persecuted: Introduction: 12:1-2

Luke refers to a vast crowd here. The crowds have been increasing of late: 11:29  
They are eager to hear what Jesus and his disciples have to say...

We have to understand the enormous Mission to the world-  
And the enormous challenge this is to the disciples.

The emphasis here focuses on the relationship between **the disciples' personal life**  
...and their responsibility for others.

In times of persecution that responsibility increases...

Since Jesus and the Church are **ONE** Mystical Body, if they oppose and persecute Jesus, The Word, they will also oppose and persecute the Church.

- In 12:1-3 Jesus tells his disciples **NOT** to **FEAR** persecution...  
they are **TO FEAR hypocrisy and pretence**, which he has condemned in the Pharisees.
- God's Word tears the mask off all pretence and false security.  
In the Light of God's Truth, everything is known, and **"the truth will out"**.

The text in 12:2 **"Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known"**

A variant form of this was given in 8:17, and was developed further in 11:33-36

- a) Disciples must not pretend they don't know the Truth! (11:33-36)
- b) They must not be afraid of the large crowds and their pressing needs (us!)
- c) They must openly and fearlessly proclaim Christ no matter **what** the consequences

### Fear and its cure: (12:4-7) Whom should we fear?

- We should fear God and His Judgement, yet do not fear Him wrongly for He cares for us.
- We should fear our failure to proclaim Jesus, The Word: (12:9)
- Love and trust in God's mercy is the cure for this fear (12:6-7)