

Luke 11:27-36

Introduction: Attempted neutrality in the face of God's activity is not advisable. It is dangerous to ignore God's revelation, while it is blessedness to listen to and obey God's Word.

Submissive obedience to Christ is more important than mere praise—11:27-28

- 1) Enthusiastic incomplete blessing of Christ through blessing Mary—11:27 ²⁷ *And it happened, while He was saying these things, a certain woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You and the breasts at which You nursed."* (cf. 1:28, 42, 45, 48)
- 2) Jesus confirms and completes her blessing—11:28 ²⁸ *But He (emphatic) said, "All the more blessed are those who are characterized by listening to the Word of God and observing it."* (cf. 6:47; 8:15, 21)

Spiritual hunger and repentance are more important than any sign—11:29-32

- 1) ²⁹ *And it happened, as the crowds were increasing, He began to say,*
- 2) His statements
 - a) What does Jesus say?
 - i) *"This generation is evil.*
 - ii) *It is searching for a sign*
 - iii) *and no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah the prophet.*
 - b) Why? ³⁰ *For just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so also the Son of Man will be to this generation.*
- 3) Searching for God-given wisdom—11:31 ³¹ *The (Gentile) queen of the South (cf. 1st Kings 10:1-13; 2nd Chronicles 9:1-12) will be raised up in the judgment with the men of this generation and she will condemn them,*
 - a) Why? *because she came from the ends of the earth to listen to the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.*
- 4) Repentance at God-given message—11:32 ³² *The (Gentile) men of Nineveh will arise in the judgment with this generation and will condemn it,*
 - a) Why? *because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.*

Whole-hearted positive response to Jesus is best—11:33-36

- 1) Jesus' character and teaching has been most obvious—11:33 ³³ *No one, having lit a lamp, puts it in a hidden place or under a basket, but on a lampstand, so that those who enter may see the brightness.*
 - a) "The purpose of a lamp is to illuminate. Jesus is the light, providing illumination for all who are entering the kingdom. He is shining for all to see. To see, one only needs the light, assuming one can see." (Magill)
- 2) The necessity of being receptive of the teaching of Christ—11:34 ³⁴ *The lamp of the body is the eye.*
 - a) *Therefore when your eye is healthy, your whole body is also full of light.*

- i) The problem was not a lack of light but their perception. They didn't need more light or more signs. They needed transformed hearts to see Christ.
 - b) *But when it is bad, your body also is full of darkness.*
 - c) "Whether or not you are illuminated by the light of Jesus depends on the state of your spiritual eye (that is, your heart)." (Magill)
- 3) Being spiritual alert benefits you and those around you—11:35-36 ³⁵ *Therefore pay attention that the light in you is not darkness.*
- a) Make sure your eye is not focused on man-made traditions and hoped for signs. Look at Christ alone!
 - b) ³⁶ *If (1st class condition, assumed true) then your whole body is full of light, having no dark part, it will be wholly illumined, as when the lamp illumines you with its rays.*
 - i) What hope and joy this brings to us who were children of darkness.
 - c) We are responsible for our spiritual condition by how we respond to God's revelation. No one can respond for you.
- 4) "The reason Israel remained in darkness was not the fault of the Revealer but the fault of the nation that refused the revelation. Christ promised that if they would receive the revelation, they would have light. And He invited them to Himself as the light." (Pentecost)

Take-home truth: What is your habitual respond to God's revelation?