

Who's Inside?

He sent out the 72 and discussed the significance of loving your neighbor and prioritizing our spiritual lives. He's around 5 months from His crucifixion.

Note: I've enjoyed and recommend Mark E. Moore's "The Chronological Life of Christ." Some of my comments can be found in his material by coincidence (he's not the only one making such observations articulated in his material), and other times, I've leaned on his accurate and helpful observations. He's done an excellent job making 1st-century culture and practices available.

No events occurred between last week's lesson and today.

Jesus' Model Prayer (Luke 11:1-13)

- Harmonizing and/or explaining the text:
 - Jesus also mentored in prayer.
 - What you see:
 - Acknowledging God's holiness.
 - Acknowledging God's will.
 - Acknowledging God's provision (in every way).
 - Jesus' illustration:
 - What you see:
 - Ask (and receive).
 - Seek (and find).
 - Knock (and it will be opened).
 - What He's saying and not saying:
 - He's not saying we're bothering God.
 - He's promoting bold faith and persistence because God cares.
- Something to meditate on:
 - Prayer doesn't come easy to everyone. It's very "relationship" driven, and quite frankly, some struggle.
 - The disciples saw in Jesus something they wanted in prayer. It's not as though they'd never prayed to Jehovah. Yet, John the Baptist taught his disciples (which implies there was something different about it). So it was with Jesus: they took note of Jesus and wanted what He had. Things haven't changed in 2,000 years, have they? I'd love to have Jesus' faithfulness *to* and *in* prayer. I seek to have the relationship He has with the Father.
 - We should ask in faith. That's the bottom line and Jesus' consistent message. We don't receive because we don't ask or because they're selfish requests (James 4:2-3). We don't receive because we don't believe (James 1:6-8).
 - Matthew's account of this prayer ends with the Father giving "good gifts." Luke's account concludes with the Father giving the Holy Spirit. Puts things into perspective. Here's the real question: what are you asking for? What are your expectations? Remember to keep things balanced.

- Finally, I can only imagine how many hours mommas have spent in prayer with their kiddos. You know, our fathers can and should also teach us to pray. It's one of the key ways we bring Jesus inside our home. But, Jesus has to be inside our hearts. I've recently counseled about the danger of having an outside Jesus vs. an inside Jesus. We feel comfortable talking about Jesus in services. We're okay hearing about Him at a meeting or singing about Him together in someone's home. But bringing Jesus through our own front doors is the real challenge. He has to be in our homes, brethren. One of the key ways to do so (and we can struggle with this) is prayer. Learn to pray with your wife, children, parents, and friends. But more than anything, allow Jesus to make His home in you.

Demon Or Divine (14-28)

- *Harmonizing and/or explaining the text:*

- Matthew identifies the accusers as Pharisees.
 - From Moore, "Beelzebul was a Canaanite god whose name means *lord of the house/temple*. He may have represented the lord of demons (cf. Mt 10:26; 12:25, 26; Mk 3:22, 27). But the Jews mocked him by changing his name ever so slightly. If you exchange the final 'l' with a 'b' his name becomes Beelzebub, *the lord of flies* (cf. 2 Kings 1:2-16)."
- Here's Jesus' arguments in Luke:
 - If Satan fights against himself, he's self-defeated. Makes no sense.
 - If I cast them out by the power of Beelzebul, so do your sons (see Luke 9:49-50; Acts 19:13-14).
 - If I cast them out by the power of God, then the kingdom has come.
 - If I can overpower Satan, then you shouldn't stand against Me.
- Matthew and Mark include the warning of blaspheming the Holy Spirit. Luke states it later in 12:10.

- *Something to meditate on:*

- As Moore points out, we need to honor the Holy Spirit and not:
 - Rebel against Him (Isaiah 63:10).
 - Lie to Him (Acts 5:3-9).
 - Resist Him (Acts 7:51).
 - Abuse Him (Acts 8:18-22).
 - Grieve Him (Eph. 4:30).
 - Quench Him (1 Thess. 5:19).
 - Insult Him (Heb. 10:29).
 - Blaspheme Him (Mt 12:31-32; Mk 3:29; Lk 12:10), which is unforgivable.
 - This leads me to believe Jesus warned them of a point of no return. When you stubbornly ignore clear evidence without a hint of change, this is evidence of a hard and impenetrable heart. This is a purposeful rejection of God. Such a person is not forgiven - ever. As has been pointed out, questioning who Jesus was is understandable. But, rejecting the clear and objective evidence of God through the Holy Spirit (John 3:2; 9:33) . . . and then calling the Holy Spirit an evil Spirit is something different. This makes sense of the following passages: Hebrews 6:4-6; 10:26-30; 1 John 5:16-17.

- Don't take for granted what God has done for you. If so, you may find yourself in a worse state than before. It's the pig that returns to the mud, but it's worse because you know better.
- Before you bless God for His words of truth, ensure you keep to it.
- Finally, let us take note that a person will see what they want to see in others. If men can literally see the devil in the Son of God, then brethren, we can see the worst in people if we want to. Yet, the only remedy is to give them a fair shot and look at the fruit they bear. Why didn't the Pharisees acknowledge Jesus? Pride and jealousy. They knew better than anyone else (though they didn't) and didn't want their place of power/position to be robbed. Don't let the goodness of someone else cause you anger. Better to deal with your own sin than to find ways to bad mouth others. Jesus called out their bad argumentation, but let's remember: Satan wants to work inside of us. Who's inside us? Satan or Jesus? If Satan, remember we're trying to destroy the work of God. There's a good chance we're acting hypocritically. The kingdom of God has come, and you may be on the outside. Finally, you're fighting against Jesus, and the one persuading your life has already been defeated. So, who's in you?