

## More than Mary

Luke 11:27-28 Sunday AM, October 12, 2025

**Prelude – Scripture: Luke 11:14-28** (NASB95) And He was casting out a demon, and it was mute; when the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke; and the crowds were amazed. 15 But some of them said, “He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons.” 16 Others, to test Him, were demanding of Him a sign from heaven. 17 But He knew their thoughts and said to them, “Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and a house divided against itself falls. 18 “If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. 19 “And if I by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast them out? So they will be your judges. 20 “But if I cast out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. 21 “When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are undisturbed. 22 “But when someone stronger than he attacks him and overpowers him, he takes away from him all his armor on which he had relied and distributes his plunder. 23 “He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me, scatters. 24 “When the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and not finding any, it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ 25 “And when it comes, it finds it swept and put in order. 26 “Then it goes and takes along seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first.” 27 While Jesus was saying these things, one of the women in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, “Blessed is the womb that bore You and the breasts at which You nursed.” 28 But He said, “On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.”

Last week, we praised God because He freed a man from the power of a demon! While many gave glory to God, some attributed this compassionate display of power to the devil while others want more miraculous proof that it truly was a work of God. What more could Jesus do to show His power was greater—that HE was greater, that He was God?!? And yet, worship the compassion of Jesus as He engaged their arguments, **For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. 19 “And if I by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast them out? So they will be your judges. 20 “But if I cast out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.** He gave them something to think about, but in the end, Jesus must be the final interpreter of all they see—**“He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me, scatters.** We must admit both our blindness and our need of Him. Praise God for the gift of the Holy Spirit promised earlier in this chapter to those who humbly ask for Him. Only God by His Spirit can break our darkness so we can SEE His ordinary as well as extraordinary means of grace and attribute them only to Him. Praise God’s love to provide a way for our eyes to be opened and be justly reconciled to Him.

**\*Hymn #92: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**

**27 While Jesus was saying these things, one of the women in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, “Blessed is the womb that bore You and the breasts at which You nursed.”** It is an honor, it is enviable to be in ANY association with you, Jesus! IMAGINE what it would be like to be your mother. SHE is honored, blessed, privileged. I get chills just thinking about it. **28 But He said, “On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.”** There is something better. You are blessed if you hear the word of God and live inside it.

**\*Hymn (Powerpoint): Your Words are Wonderful**

**\*Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn Choir: Gratitude**

**Scripture: Genesis 22:1–18** (NASB95) Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” 2 He said, “Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you.” 3 So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and Isaac his son; and he split wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. 4 On the third day Abraham raised his eyes and saw the place from a distance. 5 Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go over there; and we will worship and return to you.” 6 Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son, and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. 7 Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” And he said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” 8 Abraham said, “God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” So the two of them walked on together. 9 Then they came to the place of which God had told him; and Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood, and bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 11 But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” 12 He said, “Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.” 13 Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son. 14 Abraham called the name of that place The LORD Will Provide, as it is said to this day, “In the mount of the LORD it will be provided.” 15 Then the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, 16 and said, “By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18 “In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

**Offering: \*Doxology:**

**Blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.** Can you think of a better example than Abraham, and specifically, Abraham when told to offer up his son Isaac on the altar? So much we don’t understand and are missing, but we DO understand that God spoke and Abraham moved to obey. So much stood against his obedience starting with God’s promises to him, and yet Abraham clearly heard God’s command and revered him enough to obey. I came across this semi-familiar old hymn when digging through Getty’s new hymnal—learn it with me as the minor key speaks of the path of God strengthening your faith in His righteous judgements AS we obey Him.

**\*Hymn (Powerpoint): If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee**

Following Jesus may look different than you anticipated, just like some of what the choir sang. Gratitude for what you first see as not good or for NOT providing what you thought you need most often comes slowly as you realize the differences that often are between Everything we want and what we really need. Slowly as you “take His yoke and learn of Him,” you will be able to say, maybe not, not today Maybe You'll provide in other ways And if that's the case ... We'll give thanks to You with gratitude A lesson learned to hunger after You, For lessons learned in how to trust in You That we are blessed beyond what we could ever dream In abundance or in need. Keep this mind as Pastor Jahn prepares to preach on these two verses and we hear what must have been an awkward moment when Jesus redirects this women’s exclamation toward the place of true blessing. This is perhaps one of my favorite of the new hymns that that I pray you can pray as the desire of your heart. Sing it with me.

**\*Hymn (Powerpoint): Speak O Lord**

**Message: “More than Mary” Luke 11:27-28**

**\*Hymn #346: I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus**

**\*Prayer**