

What Are You Looking For?

Luke 11:29-32 Sunday AM, October 19, 2025

Prelude – Scripture: Luke 11:23-32 (NASB95) “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.” 29 As the crowds were increasing, He began to say, “This generation is a wicked generation; it seeks for a sign, and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah. 30 “For just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so will the Son of Man be to this generation. 31 “The Queen of the South will rise up with the men of this generation at the judgment and condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here. 32 “The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.

As we go from incident to incident, from miracle to message, we find that while many people followed saw, and spread the word about Jesus, there were many different interpretations and focuses. This is the Messiah! Praise the power of God over the demons and His compassion toward this man! On the other hand, “Yes, he was healed, but the source of power was the devil himself.” “Jesus, we need to see more. Show us another sign just so we can be convinced ourselves. That’s not a problem for you if you are whom you say, right?” **Blessed is the womb that bore You and breasts at which You nursed.** Wait, what? Finally, someone recognizing Your greatness, Jesus. A little loud, a little weird to have a woman do it this way, but let’s take the positive PR. **28 But He said, “On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.”** What’s more, He determines what His Word means and how to observe it. **“He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me, scatters.** What does this mean? There is something even better than what you see as validating your choices of a good life, of even following God. You are blessed if you hear the word of God, submit to His means of interpreting it, and live inside it. As we praise God for His grace shown to these individuals years ago, let’s praise Him for His grace to us found foremost in His work to reconcile us to Himself and display His greatness to the world through us. Sing this through the words of Ephesians 1.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): Come Praise and Glorify

Jesus doesn’t let up in correcting their assumptions about Him. **29 As the crowds were increasing, He began to say, “This generation is a wicked generation; it seeks for a sign, and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah. 30 “For just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so will the Son of Man be to this generation.** He doesn’t accept their supposed interest by catering to what THEY think they need for belief, but shows them they missed His means of gracious revelation because they were looking for the wrong thing. Do you want to see God’s grace or just see grace? There is a big difference. Only God’s grace glorifies God—the other glorifies you. This song hit me over 30 years ago as a prayer for right in the middle of life—a prayer not merely for the grace I think I need, but that I would see and live by the grace God gives. Ask God for His grace, because only His grace leads to life.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): If I Stand *Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn **No Choir this week** **Scripture: Jeremiah 7:1–34** (NASB95) The word that came to

Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, 2 “Stand in the gate of the LORD’S house and proclaim there this word and say, ‘Hear the word of the LORD, all you of Judah, who enter by these gates to worship the LORD!’ ” 3 Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, “Amend your ways and your deeds, and I will let you dwell in this place. 4 “Do not trust in deceptive words, saying, ‘This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD.’ 5 “For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds, if you truly practice justice between a man and his neighbor, 6 if you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place, nor walk after other gods to your own ruin, 7 then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever. 8 “Behold, you are trusting in deceptive words to no avail. 9 “Will you steal, murder, and commit adultery and swear falsely, and offer sacrifices to Baal and walk after other gods that you have not known, 10 then come and stand before Me in this house, which is called by My name, and say, ‘We are delivered!’—that you may do all these abominations? 11 “Has this house, which is called by My name, become a den of robbers in your sight? Behold, I, even I, have seen it,” declares the LORD. 12 “But go now to My place which was in Shiloh, where I made My name dwell at the first, and see what I did to it because of the wickedness of My people Israel. 13 “And now, because you have done all these things,” declares the LORD, “and I spoke to you, rising up early and speaking, but you did not hear, and I called you but you did not answer, 14 therefore, I will do to the house which is called by My name, in which you trust, and to the place which I gave you and your fathers, as I did to Shiloh. 15 “I will cast you out of My sight, as I have cast out all your brothers, all the offspring of Ephraim. 16 “As for you, do not pray for this people, and do not lift up cry or prayer for them, and do not intercede with Me; for I do not hear you. 17 “Do you not see what they are doing in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? 18 “The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough to make cakes for the queen of heaven; and they pour out drink offerings to other gods in order to spite Me. 19 “Do they spite Me?” declares the LORD. “Is it not themselves they spite, to their own shame?” 20 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, My anger and My wrath will be poured out on this place, on man and on beast and on the trees of the field and on the fruit of the ground; and it will burn and not be quenched.” 21 Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, “Add your burnt offerings to your sacrifices and eat flesh. 22 “For I did not speak to your fathers, or command them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings and sacrifices. 23 “But this is what I commanded them, saying, ‘Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you will be My people; and you will walk in all the way which I command you, that it may be well with you.’ 24 “Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but walked in their own counsels and in the stubbornness of their evil heart, and went backward and not forward. 25 “Since the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt until this day, I have sent you all My servants the prophets, daily rising early and sending them. 26 “Yet they did not listen to Me or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck; they did more evil than their fathers. 27 “You shall speak all these words to them, but they will not listen to you; and you shall call to them, but they will not answer you. 28 “You shall say to them, ‘This is the nation that did not obey the voice of the LORD their God or accept correction; truth has perished and has been cut off from their mouth. 29 “Cut off your hair and cast it away, And take up a lamentation on the bare heights; For the LORD has rejected and forsaken The generation of His wrath.’ 30 “For the sons of Judah have done that which is evil in My sight,” declares the LORD, “they have set their detestable things in the house which is called by My name, to defile it. 31 “They have built the high places of Topheth, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, and it did not come into My mind. 32 “Therefore, behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when it will no longer be called Topheth, or the valley of the son of Hinnom, but the valley of the Slaughter; for they will bury in Topheth because there is no other place. 33 “The dead bodies of this people will be food for the birds of the sky and for the beasts of the earth; and no one will frighten them away. 34 “Then I will make to cease from the cities of Judah and from the streets of Jerusalem the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride; for the land will become a ruin.

Offering: *Doxology:

31 “The Queen of the South will rise up with the men of this generation at the judgment and condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here. Wow! condemned because wisdom was right in front of you and you didn’t seek it or listen to it. What a tough message to swallow. What’s the appropriate response? Lord, show me more of You. I want Your wisdom. Have you seen something recently about God that elicits praise from deep within? Can you remember any of His praiseworthy deeds recorded for us from days gone by? Sing the praiseworthiness of our God!

*Hymn #8: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

You may be seated. What a large passage from Jeremiah. How much time have you spent in Jeremiah? Tim is pretty deep into memorizing this book. It is full of hard truths and judgment because their worship of God masked their ignorance of and disobedience to His words. **‘This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD.’** They meant to honor God, but their actions belittled God. **5 “For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds, if you truly practice justice between a man and his neighbor, 6 if you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place, nor walk after other gods to your own ruin, 7 then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever. 8 “Behold, you are trusting in deceptive words to no avail They LIVED outside God’s words, meaning someone or something other than God had their attention even when they thought they followed God. 24 “Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but walked in their own counsels and in the stubbornness of their evil heart, and went backward and not forward. 25 “Since the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt until this day, I have sent you all My servants the prophets, daily rising early and sending them. 26 “Yet they did not listen to Me or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck; they did more evil than their fathers. And so our passage from Luke today concludes, 32 “The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of**

Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. Do you want to be compared to the Ninevites and THEY come out as better than you? As pastor prepares to preach, ask God for a heart to hear and repent of anywhere you are not in fellowship with God. You only have one life to praise Him with a life full of His priorities and attitudes.

***Hymn #378: Only One Life**

Message: "What Are You Looking For?" Luke 11:29-32

***Hymn #381: Open My Eyes That I May See**

***Prayer**