

Lessons from a Miracle

Luke 11:14-26 Sunday AM, October 5, 2025

Prelude – Scripture: Luke 11:14-26 (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.”

Whether Jesus and His disciples stayed or traveled, they were in seeming constant contact with people. Jesus taught and healed, caring for their bodies and souls, showing the character of God and His for them. But there were cracks in between. Those cracks were filled with things like Jesus praying in a way that enticed the disciples. **“Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples.”** Do you remember where Jesus’ prayer focused? On the holiness of God’s name and the desire for His kingdom’s goals to take place. From THIS foundation, we would ask God for provision for living 3 **‘Give us each day our daily bread.** We work to provide, but He enables and brings provision. 4 **‘And forgive us our sins, For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.** Seek to do right, but we are never right enough. Forgive ALL you think have sinned against you, your heart toward them as you wait and work toward reconciliation. The more you contemplate all implied in this request, the more amazement that God can justly pardon, can fully justify you. But further, it leads you to look to God for provision to obey Him. Last week, Jesus told us what this looks like—persistence, like knocking on a friend’s door at midnight for provision to provide hospitality. Persistence, not friendship led to provision. Does your prayer life show this persistence? What stops us from coming to a holy God this way? Perhaps not believing He is present—active in our affairs. But here, Jesus deals with another issue—questioning His goodness. Jesus says you are profane, not holy, and you love to give good gifts to your children. If you do that, how much more will your holy Creator and Redeemer give good gifts. Contemplate and worship as we begin today.

***Hymn (Powerpoint): Psalm 150 (Praise the Lord)**

Today, God’s good gift is freeing a man from the power of a demon. Praise the Lord! While many gave glory to God, some attribute this compassionate display of power to the devil while others want more miraculous proof that it truly was a work of God. We can learn from Jesus as He compassionately engages their arguments proving He 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. Remember last week’s good gift from God? He gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask. Can we begin to comprehend what it means for part of the Godhead to inhabit those who trust God’s provision in Christ to reconcile us to God? Only He can break our darkness so we can SEE His ordinary as well as extraordinary means of grace and attribute them only to Him. If you profess to be born again, ask God to help you yield to His Spirit so He will open your eyes to see His glory and grace.

***Hymn (Powerpoint): Light of God**

***Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn Choir: I’ll Worship Only**

Scripture: 1 Kings 18:20–40 (NASB95) So Ahab sent a message among all the sons of Israel and brought the prophets together at Mount Carmel. 21 Elijah came near to all the people and said, “How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” But the people did not answer him a word. 22 Then Elijah said to the people, “I alone am left a prophet of the LORD, but Baal’s prophets are 450 men. 23 “Now let them give us two oxen; and let them choose one ox for themselves and cut it up, and place it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other ox and lay it on the wood, and I will not put a fire under it. 24 “Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD, and the God who answers by fire, He is God.” And all the people said, “That is a good idea.” 25 So Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose one ox for yourselves and prepare it first for you are many, and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it.” 26 Then they took the ox which was given them and they prepared it and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon saying, “O Baal, answer us.” But there was no voice and no one answered. And they leaped about the altar which they made. 27 It came about at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, “Call out with a loud voice, for he is a god; either he is occupied or gone aside, or is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and needs to be awakened.” 28 So they cried with a loud voice and cut themselves according to their custom with swords and lances until the blood gushed out on them. 29 When midday was past, they raved until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice; but there was no voice, no one answered, and no one paid attention. 30 Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come near to me.” So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD which had been torn down. 31 Elijah took twelve stones according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, “Israel shall be your name.” 32 So with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD, and he made a trench around the altar, large enough to hold two measures of seed. 33 Then he arranged the wood and cut the ox in pieces and laid it on the wood. 34 And he said, “Fill four pitchers with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood.” And he said, “Do it a second time,” and they did it a second time. And he said, “Do it a third time,” and they did it a third time. 35 The water flowed around the altar and he also filled the trench with water. 36 At the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet came near and said, “O LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, today let it be known that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant and I have done all these things at Your word. 37 “Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that You, O LORD, are God, and that You have turned their heart back again.” 38 Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. 39 When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, “The LORD, He is God; the LORD, He is God.” 40 Then Elijah said to them, “Seize the prophets of Baal; do not let one of them escape.” So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.

Offering: *Doxology:

What a convincing display of power before the people of Israel! The Lord, HE is God, the Israelites worshipped. The choir song called us to examine the outcome of worshipping at other shrines and concluded with the testimony, I’ll Worship Only at the feet of Jesus. His cup alone my holy grail. Today’s passage says that cleaning out the demons without replacing them with a greater power will put you in a greater mess than before. What is between you and saying, The Lord He is God!? Behold the glory of God in what He has given us to know Him and willingly glorify Him because He is worthy.

***Hymn #25: Immortal, Invisible**

Message: “Lessons from a Miracle” Luke 11:14-26

***Hymn #185: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross**

The Lord’s Table

There is more to a relationship with God than the cross, but not less. No cross, no fellowship/relationship with God other than hostility. In the cross, we also see the greatest display of love for you—contemplate the specifics of the hope we just celebrated and go living in light of God’s grace shown through Christ.

***Hymn #195: Nothing but the Blood *Prayer**