

The Attack Continues

Luke 11:45-54 Sunday AM, November 9, 2025

Prelude – Scripture: Luke 11:43-54 (NASB95) “Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the chief seats in the synagogues and the respectful greetings in the market places. 44 “Woe to you! For you are like concealed tombs, and the people who walk over them are unaware of it.” 45 One of the lawyers said to Him in reply, “Teacher, when You say this, You insult us too.” 46 But He said, “Woe to you lawyers as well! For you weigh men down with burdens hard to bear, while you yourselves will not even touch the burdens with one of your fingers. 47 “Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets, and *it was* your fathers *who* killed them. 48 “So you are witnesses and approve the deeds of your fathers; because it was they who killed them, and you build *their tombs*. 49 “For this reason also the wisdom of God said, ‘I will send to them prophets and apostles, and *some* of them they will kill and *some* they will persecute, 50 so that the blood of all the prophets, shed since the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation, 51 from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the house of *God*: yes, I tell you, it shall be charged against this generation.’ 52 “Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge; you yourselves did not enter, and you hindered those who were entering.” 53 When He left there, the scribes and the Pharisees began to be very hostile and to question Him closely on many subjects, 54 plotting against Him to catch *Him* in something He might say.

Light is to be seen, not hidden, Jesus said. But what IS light? Are you sure we agree? Not just you and I, but you and God. Remember? 35 “**Then watch out that the light in you is not darkness.** If we don’t agree with God on what is light, then what we live by and look for is really darkness. Is this too abstract for you? Jesus, come for lunch. Wow, an honor for this respected Pharisee to ask. NO, it is my honor to have you eat with me. Um, social and spiritual faux pax—Jesus didn’t ceremonially wash before eating. Jesus speaks. Clean is important, but what if you have only cleaned the outside and left the inside full of death, darkness, and impurity. “**You foolish ones, did not He who made the outside make the inside also?** What does it look like to clean the inside? And here, it gets personal as Jesus goes after areas exposing their self-righteous and self-centered hearts—their greed, materialism, and desire to be seen and treated prominently. They must exchange their definition of justice and love for God’s. The greatest problem, however, was that both the religious leaders and those who saw them were blind to the depth of their inner uncleanness. And so it is apart from the miraculous work of God to open our eyes to what separates us from His holiness AND the work of Christ that reconciles us to God AND works to make us holy from the inside out. Church, praise God for this powerful and complete gospel.

*Hymn #203: And Can It Be?

God’s truth would not merely expose but would set them straight. But they don’t see it that way. “**Teacher, when You say this, You insult us too.**” The lines are drawn, and Jesus continues to expose darkness in their hearts. Woe to you for you put burdens on people and do nothing to lift them. You seek to honor the prophets of God, but your fathers killed them. God will bring justice for them against your generation. You think you are wise? You are not only foolish, but you have made it hard for anyone else to know the wisdom of God. Once again, hard words, and to the extent they hit home in our lives, we must repent. But don’t focus only on your sins, focus on the One calling you to repent—come to the Light and know forgiveness and freedom. Ask God for this heart.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): Just As I Am

*Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn Choir: Kyrie Eleison

BIC Graduation Presentation: Tim Haas

Scripture: Joel 2:1–32 (NASB95) Blow a trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm on My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, For the day of the LORD is coming; Surely it is near, 2 A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness. As the dawn is spread over the mountains, So there is a great and mighty people; There has never been anything like it, Nor will there be again after it To the years of many generations. 3 A fire consumes before them And behind them a flame burns. The land is like the garden of Eden before them But a desolate wilderness behind them, And nothing at all escapes them. 4 Their appearance is like the appearance of horses; And like war horses, so they run. 5 With a noise as of chariots They leap on the tops of the mountains, Like the crackling of a flame of fire consuming the stubble, Like a mighty people arranged for battle. 6 Before them the people are in anguish; All faces turn pale. 7 They run like mighty men, They climb the wall like soldiers; And they each march in line, Nor do they deviate from their paths. 8 They do not crowd each other, They march everyone in his path; When they burst through the defenses, They do not break ranks. 9 They rush on the city, They run on the wall; They climb into the houses, They enter through the windows like a thief. 10 Before them the earth quakes, The heavens tremble, The sun and the moon grow dark And the stars lose their brightness. 11 The LORD utters His voice before His army; Surely His camp is very great, For strong is he who carries out His word. The day of the LORD is indeed great and very awesome, And who can endure it? 12 “Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “Return to Me with all your heart, And with fasting, weeping and mourning; 13 And rend your heart and not your garments.” Now return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness And relenting of evil. 14 Who knows whether He will not turn and relent And leave a blessing behind Him, Even a grain offering and a drink offering For the LORD your God? 15 Blow a trumpet in Zion, Consecrate a fast, proclaim a solemn assembly, 16 Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, Assemble the elders, Gather the children and the nursing infants. Let the bridegroom come out of his room And the bride out of her bridal chamber. 17 Let the priests, the LORD’S ministers, Weep between the porch and the altar, And let them say, “Spare Your people, O LORD, And do not make Your inheritance a reproach, A byword among the nations. Why should they among the peoples say, ‘Where is their God?’ ” 18 Then the LORD will be zealous for His land And will have pity on His people. 19 The LORD will answer and say to His people, “Behold, I am going to send you grain, new wine and oil, And you will be satisfied in full with them; And I will never again make you a reproach among the nations. 20 “But I will remove the northern army far from you, And I will drive it into a parched and desolate land, And its vanguard into the eastern sea, And its rear guard into the western sea. And its stench will arise and its foul smell will come up, For it has done great things.” 21 Do not fear, O land, rejoice and be glad, For the LORD has done great things. 22 Do not fear, beasts of the field, For the pastures of the wilderness have turned green, For the tree has borne its fruit, The fig tree and the vine have yielded in full. 23 So rejoice, O sons of Zion, And be glad in the LORD your God; For He has given you the early rain for your vindication. And He has poured down for you the rain, The early and latter rain as before. 24 The threshing floors will be full of grain, And the vats will overflow with the new wine and oil. 25 “Then I will make up to you for the years That the swarming locust has eaten, The creeping locust, the stripping locust and the gnawing locust, My great army which I sent among you. 26 “You will have plenty to eat and be satisfied And praise the name of the LORD your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; Then My people will never be put to shame. 27 “Thus you will know that I am in the midst of Israel, And that I am the LORD your God, And there is no other; And My people will never be put to shame. 28 “It will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions. 29 “Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. 30 “I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, Blood, fire and columns of smoke. 31 “The sun will be turned into darkness And the moon into blood Before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. 32 “And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the LORD Will be delivered; For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem There will be those who escape, As the LORD has said, Even among the survivors whom the LORD calls.

Offering: *Doxology:

Our passage ends today far from repentance. Instead, there was hostility, plotting to eliminate Jesus. As Pastor preaches, don’t merely hear hard words. Look to the One saying them. Did you hear Joel? God through these hard words and punishment is calling you to return to Him with all your heart—with fasting, weeping, and mourning. Why? Because **He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness and relenting of evil.** The Lord will mercifully bless, restoring years the locust has eaten, give fruitful years AND will pour out His Spirit. Sing of the Goodness of Jesus as Pastor Jahn prepares to preach a hard message exposing darkness and ask God to help you to turn to Him and know His mercy.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): The Goodness of Jesus

Message: “The Attack Continues” Luke 11:45-54 *Hymn #404: The Solid Rock *Prayer