

# The Kingdom has Come!

Luke 11:14-36

## Multi-tasking

What does “multi-tasking” mean?

When do we apparently do it well?

When do we not do it well?

Actually means: paying partial attention well enough that (I think) you can't tell I'm not paying full attention

Why does it matter?

How might we do that with God?

Partial trust, partial engagement, partial obedience

“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”

*Hebrews 4:12-13*

## Luke

Luke's big purpose

That we would live by the certainty that Jesus is the Son of God who lived a perfect life, died for us, and rose to life again to rule over all creation through His work in the church

The “Travel Narrative” in Luke (9:51-19:27)

An advanced class in being a disciple (follower) of Jesus

**They had learned:** Jesus is God's Messiah, the One who is God and will bring God's Kingdom to humanity

**They hadn't yet learned:** how to live it out

## “Jews demand signs ... but we preach Christ crucified”

*1 Corinthians 1:22-23*

Like Moses who did great miracles

before Pharaoh to release the people from slavery

at the Red Sea

when the Law was given

Yet Pharaoh's magicians did “miracles” too

So the people said to Jesus: prove your power is from God!

## Luke 11:14-36

**An amazing “sign” brought open praise and hidden resistance: 14-16**

**Jesus: His power over spirits is not from Satan (the leader of evil spirits). Rather, “the kingdom of God has come upon you” 17-22**

**Jesus: choosing God's Kingdom must be intentional & determined 23-36**

**\* partial engagement empowers opposition to God 23-26**

The great risk of passivity and partial engagement with Jesus

Here Jesus focuses on supernatural reality

Moral goodness without allegiance to Jesus leaves one deeply vulnerable to evil

**\* living in God's Kingdom requires hearing and obeying 27-28**

**\* “insiders” who do not choose Jesus will be judged**

**by “outsiders” who do 29-32**

Jonah: resistant Israelite (but can't stay neutral) rebuked foreigners; they heard the Word of God and obeyed; they were rescued

Queen of the South: sought and listened to words of Israel's King Solomon

No “signs” were required for their faith!

Jesus is far greater, yet people resist Him

**\* the call: fill your life with the Word of God & the Spirit of God otherwise, you are filled with darkness 33-36**

No one is foolish enough to light a lamp then try to block its light

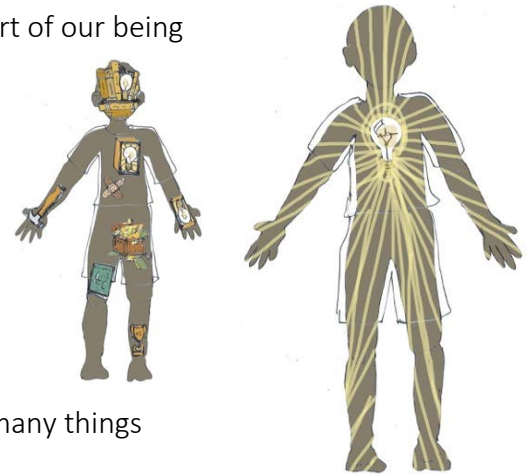
It is just as foolish to have the light of Jesus then block its light from any part of our being

Even more, it is disastrous: “full of darkness”

“Light of Jesus”: Spirit plus obedience to Word

**The Big Idea**

**The Kingdom of God has come upon us  
and we are fully living in His Kingdom when...  
we are filled with the Holy Spirit  
we are filled with the Word of God  
we fully live according to the Word of God**



**What is filling this life?**

The light of Jesus is present, yet it is blocked and crowded and choked by many things

The “eye” of life is what fills us

“But when your eyes are unhealthy, your body also is full of darkness. See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness.” Luke 11:34-35

Wandering eyes look at the wrong things

Diseased eyes block vision, or block clarity, or distort what is there

Partial engagement welcomes darkness

**What is filling this life?**

“Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and no part of it dark, it will be just as full of light as when a lamp shines its light on you.” Luke 11:36

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.” Isaiah 9:2

What does it mean for our whole body to be full of the Light of Christ?

To be filled with the light of Christ is to experience  
the fullness of His love and blessing, and to escape  
the efforts of the devil to steal and kill and destroy

**Application**

**Fill our lives with the Light of Christ**

**1. Be filled with the Holy Spirit**

“For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness [the stronghold of Satan] and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves” Colossians 1:13-14

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” Ephesians 6:12

The spiritual realm is real and powerful, both good and evil

Satan: disguises himself as an angel of light; deceives; is crafty; seeks to steal, kill, and destroy; tries to win by partial victories

Jesus’ power is far greater! “someone stronger overpowers him”

How?

“But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior” Titus 3:3-7

“Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”” Acts 2:38

Our life as Christians is only by the direct work of the Holy Spirit

Ask Jesus for the Holy Spirit, and He will freely give

Welcome the power of the Spirit in every part of life

**2. Be filled with the Knowledge of God**

“Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it”

How?

- Carefully listen to the Word of God
- Choose good teachers of the Word of God
- Work together with others to understand the Word of God
- Be wary of the danger of confirmation bias: finding what we are looking for or what we want
- Pay attention to the parts we don't like!
- Pursue the Word of God for every part of our lives

3. Be filled with obedience to the Word of God

- "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it"
- Partial obedience welcomes darkness
- "Jesus demands obedience not praise"

How?

- Do what Jesus says: "Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me." John 14:21
- Together: "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds" Hebrews 10:24
- In every part of our lives

4. Deeply integrated

- Holy Spirit, knowledge, and obedience fully present together

## Conclusion

Which aspect of God (power, truth, action) is least at home in you?

Which aspect of you (head, heart, hands) is least filled with God?

Which aspect of your life is least filled with God?

Our goal: "filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

"But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior" *Titus 3:3-7*

Let us live in the rebirth and renewal of the Holy Spirit whom God pours out on us generously in Jesus Christ

## Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. Which aspect of God (power, truth, action) is least at home in you? Which aspect of God is most at home in you? Why?
2. Draw 3 circles that represent your head (knowledge of God), heart (the Spirit of God), and hands (obedient action in following Jesus). Make the size of the circles match the relative health of these areas (a bigger circle for a strong area). Make the circles overlap where they are working well together.
3. What is good about this drawing? What is not so good?
4. Which aspect of your life is least filled with God? Which aspect of your life is most filled with God?
5. Repentance involves
  - a. agreeing with God, with remorse, about the ways in which our lives do not match His glorious intentions for us
  - b. turning from these broken ways, by the power of the Spirit
  - c. turning to a better way to live in God, by the power of the Spirit

What does this repentance look like for you?

6. Is there a way in which you are resisting God in these areas? Why? What truth of God, by the Spirit of God, will help you overcome this resistance?
7. What does it look like for you to live fully in the rebirth and renewal of the Holy Spirit whom God pours out on us generously in Jesus Christ?