

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #41

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

Passage: Luke 11:14-28

Sermon Date: Jul 2, 2006

Introduction:

**Been in any battles lately?
Fought off any dragons?
Taken a hill or stormed a fortress?**

Mostly we seem to watch from afar these days. CNN shows us wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The History Channel takes us back in time to battles of old, while movies take us into imaginary futures where we come alongside unlikely heroes who win the day each and every time we 'boldly' lead them into battle with our commands of "Rewind" and "Play!"

Meanwhile, a real battle cry calls out to us from almost every page of our Bible. Here's one I heard this week:

The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. (Romans 13:11)

Will you join the real battle that rages all around us? In Luke 11:14-28 we find ourselves on the front lines with Jesus as he faces Satan-led opposition. So grab your study sword and your prayer shield – and join the fight!

This bible study was developed by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. To hear a sermon on the same scripture passage covered in this bible study, come to one of our Sunday worship services (8:30am or 11:00am) on the date listed on page 1. Or after that date you can hear it by logging on to www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/

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Bible Study:

1. Read this week's bible passage and use the chart below to make observations and jot down questions.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>¹⁴ Jesus was driving out a demon that was mute. When the demon left, the man who had been mute spoke, and the crowd was amazed. ¹⁵ But some of them said, "By Beelzebub, the prince of demons, he is driving out demons." ¹⁶ Others tested him by asking for a sign from heaven.</p> <p>¹⁷ Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: "Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall. ¹⁸ If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand? I say this because you claim that I drive out demons by Beelzebub. ¹⁹ Now if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your followers drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. ²⁰ But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you.</p> <p>²¹ "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. ²² But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils.</p> <p>²³ "He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>²⁴ "When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' ²⁵ When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. ²⁶ Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first."</p> <p>²⁷ As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, "Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you."</p> <p>²⁸ He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."</p>	

2. Who was Beelzebub? Use your study Bible and whatever other study resources you may have to determine who this was and what it would have meant to Luke's immediate audience (1st century Gentiles).

TIPS: Helpful cross-references include 2 Kings 1:1-6, 16, Mt 12:24-27, and Mk 3:22-26. For a helpful Bible encyclopedia go to www.studylight.org/enc/isb/ and enter "Beelzebub."

3. Read this same passage in **another translation**, especially noting the differences. The following is the New American Standard version.

¹⁴ One day Jesus cast a demon out of a man who couldn't speak, and the man's voice returned to him. The crowd was amazed, ¹⁵ but some said, "No wonder he can cast out demons. He gets his power from Satan, the prince of demons!" ¹⁶ Trying to test Jesus, others asked for a miraculous sign from heaven to see if he was from God.

¹⁷ He knew their thoughts, so he said, "Any kingdom at war with itself is doomed. A divided home is also doomed. ¹⁸ You say I am empowered by the prince of demons. But if Satan is fighting against himself by empowering me to cast out his demons, how can his kingdom survive? ¹⁹ And if I am empowered by the prince of demons, what about your own followers? They cast out demons, too, so they will judge you for what you have said. ²⁰ But if I am casting out demons by the power of God, then the Kingdom of God has arrived among you. ²¹ For when Satan, who is completely armed, guards his palace, it is safe—²² until someone who is stronger attacks and overpowers him, strips him of his weapons, and carries off his belongings.

²³ "Anyone who isn't helping me opposes me, and anyone who isn't working with me is actually working against me.

²⁴ "When an evil spirit leaves a person, it goes into the desert, searching for rest. But when it finds none, it says, 'I will return to the person I came from.' ²⁵ So it returns and finds that its former home is all swept and clean. ²⁶ Then the spirit finds seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they all enter the person and live there. And so that person is worse off than before."

²⁷ As he was speaking, a woman in the crowd called out, "God bless your mother—the womb from which you came, and the breasts that nursed you!"

²⁸ He replied, "But even more blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice."

4. How specifically did this translation expand your understanding of this passage?

5. Now read two parallel texts from the other gospels, again noting any key differences from the Luke passage, as well as how these further expanded your understanding of what Jesus is saying here.

a. Read Matthew 12:15-37. Note how it differs from Luke 11:14-28 and how it expanded your understanding of what Jesus is saying.

b. Read Mark 3:20-34. Again note how it differs from Luke 11:14-28 and how it expanded your understanding of what Jesus is saying.

Dig Deeper:

6. Jesus logically refutes those who challenge him. In your own words, summarize the arguments he uses.

7.a. What does Luke 11:14-28 teach us about Satan?

b. Jesus shows us that he believes in a real devil called Satan (among other names) and who has a kingdom and is strong and united. Jesus takes this very seriously. What do you really believe about Satan? How seriously do you take him?

c. According to the Bible, who ultimately wins this spiritual battle between Christ and Satan? How? When? How are we involved/affected? (see John 12:31-33, Col 2:15, 1 John 3:7-10, Rev 17:14)

d. At this point in your spiritual journey, whose side are you on?

- Christ
- Satan

[Sorry, there's no third choice. To switch sides, see Romans 10:9-13.]

8. Jesus tells us, "He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters." (Lk 11:23)

a. What are some ways in which you feel you are not really "with" Jesus? Do you see any ways in which this works against the advancement of the Kingdom of God?

b. Where are you not really "gathering" with him? Do you see any ways in which this works against the advancement of the Kingdom of God?

9. What do verses 11:27-28 tell us about Jesus' mother Mary? And what do they tell us about ourselves? (Note Luke 1:28, 48 and the NAS translation of Luke 11:27-28 provided on page 4 of this study.)

10. In studying a passage, it is important to identify and understand the main message it is intended to convey, and then to apply it.

“Blessed rather are those who
hear the word of God and obey it.” (Luke 11:28)

a. What is the main, unifying point of Luke 11:14-28?

b. How does this main point apply to your life right now? What will you do in response? How will you show God that you really heard him and are willing to obey him?

c. What was the most important or helpful thing you learned from doing this study?