

Certainty... in a world of doubt

The Gospel of Luke

desert breeze
community church



Saturday & Sunday, June 8/9, 2017 Ray Davis

“Power to Change” Luke 11:14-32

One of the biggest obstacles to people coming to Christianity is that they think that they already know what it is all about. Non-Christians will typically hear gospel presentations as appeals to moralism unless we show them the stunning difference. Christianity isn't a morally restrained will (moralism) but a supernaturally transformed heart (Gospel).

Moralism: I obey, therefore God accepts me

Antinomianism: God accepts me, therefore I don't have to obey

Gospel: God accepts me in Christ, therefore I want to obey

Two Kingdoms At War: vv14-23

- 1) Through the fall of mankind the Kingdom of Satan gained dominion over this world limited by God's Sovereignty. (vv14-19; Gen3; 2Cor4:4; 1John5:19; Eph2:2; Lam3:37-38; Isa46:10; Job42:22)
- 2) The Kingdom of God has come to plunder the Kingdom of Satan. (vv20-22; Gen3:15; John10:10, 12:31-32; Col2:15; 1John3:8)
- 3) Both Kingdoms are recruiting citizens—there's no neutral ground. (V23; Matt12:30; Ex20:3)
- 4) Just because something works doesn't make it true. (vv19, 21-22, 25; Pro14:12)
- 5) Christianity is not true because it works; it works because it is true. (vv20, 23; John 8:31-32)

Satan's Strategy: Moralism (Self-salvation) vv24-26 (Luke 11:37-54)

- 1) Two ways of Self-salvation: Moral conformity and Self-discovery. (Luke 15:11-32)
- 2) It is life change (moral/virtuous behavior) motivated by pride and/or fear.
- 3) It does not root out the fundamental evil of the human heart: Self-centeredness.
- 4) In fact it is self-centeredness that motivates the changed (good) behavior, which is a house of cards.
- 5) Moralism has an attitude of superiority with a constant need to find fault, win arguments, and prove that all opponents are not just mistaken but dishonest sellouts.

- 6) Moralism is joyless fear motivated compliance to rules, is bitter when life doesn't go well and has no assurance of the Father's love.

God's Strategy: The Gospel (God is our Salvation) vv27-32 (Luke 11:33-36)

- 1) The Gospel destroys pride because you were so sinful Jesus had to die for you and it destroys fear because He loved you so much He wanted to die for you. Rom3:23, 6:23, 5:8
- 2) The Gospel gives you the power to admit what is wrong with you.
- 3) The Gospel gives you the power to get to the root of your problems.
- 4) Your life change (morality) is motivated by a heart smitten by the indispensable & sacrificial love of Christ.
- 5) It replaces self-centeredness with a blessed self-forgetfulness. It's not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less because you are captivated with the beauty & glory of Christ.

John Newton—“Our pleasure and our duty, though opposite before, since we have seen his beauty are joined to part not more.”

William Cowper—“To see the law of Christ fulfilled, and hear his pardoning voice, changes a slave into a child and duty into choice.”

Growing Notes

- 1) Read the introduction to this sermon. Why is it so important to know the difference between moralism and the Gospel? What happens when we confuse the two?
- 2) Read Luke 11:14-32. What stands out to you? Review the points under Two Kingdoms at War (vv14-27). Which one(s) are most clarifying? Just because something works doesn't make it true. Explain.
- 3) Review the points under Satan's Strategy: Moralism (Self-salvation). Which one(s) are most convicting?
- 4) Review the points under God's Strategy: The Gospel (God is our Salvation). Which one(s) are most compelling? How is the Gospel stunningly different than moralism? How does the Gospel give us the power to change? Pray.