### Luke

## Chapter 11

1Well, Jesus happened to be in a certain place praying; and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him:  
  
 ‘Lord, teach us how to pray, as John taught his disciples.’  
  
2Then he told them:  
  
 ‘When you pray, you should say:  
  
 ‘Our Father who’s in the heavens,  
  
 ‘May Your Name be treated as Holy,  
 And may Your Kingdom arrive.  
  
 ‘May Your Will be done on the earth,  
 As it is done in the heavens.  
  
 3‘Give us the bread that we need for each day,  
 4And [please] forgive all our sins,  
 As we forgive those [who’ve sinned against] us.  
  
 ‘Into temptation, don’t let us be led,  
 And from the evil one, save us.’  
  
5Then he asked:  
  
 ‘Which of you has a friend to whom you could go at midnight and say:  
  
 ‘Friend, loan me three loaves [of bread] 6because another friend of mine has arrived after a long journey, and I don’t have anything [to feed him]?’  
  
 7‘Wouldn’t he call to you from inside [his house] and say:  
  
 ‘Don’t give me any trouble! My door is already locked and my kids are here in bed with me, so I can’t get up and give you anything!’  
  
 8‘But I tell you the truth – although he won’t get up to give you anything because he’s your friend, he will get up and give you what you need if you keep on bothering him!  
  
 9‘Therefore:  
  
 ‘If you keep asking, you’ll receive,  
 If you keep searching, you’ll find,  
 And if you keep knocking, it’ll be opened.  
  
 10‘For, those who keep asking, will [get what they ask],  
 Those who keep searching will find [what they want],  
 And for all that keep knocking, the door will be opened.  
  
 11‘Now, which father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish? 12Or if he asks for an egg, who would hand him a scorpion?  
  
 13‘Therefore, if you – in your wicked condition – know to give good gifts to your children... How much more will your Father in heaven give Holy Breath to those who keep asking Him?’  
  
  
  
14Well, [Jesus] had once cast out a demon that was causing a man to be unable to talk. And after the demon came out, the man spoke, which amazed the crowds.  
  
15But some of [the Pharisees] said:  
  
 ‘He’s throwing out the demons with the help of BeElZebub, the ruler of the demons!’  
  
16And at this same time, others were trying to tempt him by asking him to give them a sign from heaven. 17But knowing what they were thinking, Jesus said this:  
  
 ‘A kingdom that’s divided can be conquered,  
 And a house that’s [divided] can fall.  
  
 18‘So if the Opposer is opposing himself,  
 How can his kingdom survive?  
  
 ‘Now, you say that I’m casting out demons by the power of BeElZebub; 19but if I’m casting out demons by BeElZebub, whose [power] are your sons using when they do the same thing?  
  
 ‘It’s over things such as this that you’re going to be condemned!  
  
 20‘For if I’m really casting out demons by the finger of God, then you’ve been overrun by His Kingdom!  
  
 21‘When a strong, well-armed man guards his mansion,  
 All of his things will be safe.  
  
 22‘But if someone who’s stronger should come there,  
 And take the weapons in which he put trust...  
 He will divide up the loot.  
  
 23‘Now, those who aren’t with me are against me,  
 And those not with me are scattering!  
  
 24‘When an unclean spirit comes out of a man,  
 It travels through [many] dry places  
 In search of a [good] place to rest.  
 And when it doesn’t find one, it says:  
 ‘I’ll go back to the house that I moved from.’  
  
 25‘Then, when he sees it swept and arranged,  
 26He goes back with seven more spirits  
 That are even more wicked than him!  
  
 ‘And after they get back inside,  
 They’ll all continue to live there.  
 And so, the end result for that man,  
 Is worse than it was at the start.’  
  
27Now, as he was saying these things, a certain woman in the crowd shouted:  
  
 ‘Blest is the womb that carried you – and the breasts that you fed from!’  
  
28But he replied:  
  
 ‘No, blest are those who hear the word of God and obey it!’  
  
29Well, a crowd was starting to form, so he said:  
  
 ‘This is a wicked people that’s always looking for signs. But no sign will be given to it other than the sign of Jonah… 30For just as Jonah was a sign to the people of Nineveh, so the Son of Man will be to this people.  
  
 31‘Why, the Queen of the South will be raised in the Judgment,  
 Along with this people,  
 And she will speak in judgment against it.  
  
 ‘For she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon’s wisdom.  
 But look! Something more than Solomon is here!  
  
 32‘The people of Nineveh will be raised in the Judgment,  
 Along with this people,  
 And they’ll also condemn it.  
  
 ‘For they repented at what Jonah preached.  
 But look! Something more than Jonah is here!  
  
 33‘No one lights a lamp and then hides it,  
 And they don’t put it under a basket.  
 They set it on a lampstand instead,  
 So people can see where they’re going.  
  
 34‘Now, the body’s lamps are your eyes.  
 And when you keep your eyes simple,  
 They’ll make your whole body bright;  
 But, if you have eyes that are wicked,  
 They’ll make your whole body dark.  
  
 35‘So be sure that your light isn’t darkness.  
 36For if your whole body is bright,  
 It’ll serve a lamp to shine on your way.’  
  
  
  
37Well after he said this, a Pharisee asked [Jesus] to dine with him, so he went in and reclined at his table. 38However, the Pharisee was surprised to see that Jesus hadn’t washed before dinner.  
  
39But the Lord said to him:  
  
 ‘You Pharisees like to wash the outsides of dishes and cups, but your insides are filled with wickedness and robbery!  
  
 40‘Unreasonable people! Didn’t the One who made the insides also make the outsides?  
  
 41‘However, if you’ll be charitable to those who are in need, {Look!} not just your outsides, but everything about you will be clean!  
  
 42‘But, woe to you Pharisees... For although you offer even your mint and your rue when you tithe, you keep overlooking justice and the love of God!  
  
 ‘Yes, you do all that [the Law] requires of you… But then you bypass all the rest.  
  
 43‘Yes, woe to you Pharisees... For you love [to sit in the] front seats in the synagogues and [to receive] all the greetings in the markets! 44Yes, woe to you, for you’re like the hidden graves that men unwittingly walk on.’  
  
45Well in reply, someone who was trained in the Law said to him:  
  
 ‘Teacher, you know, when you say things like this, you’re insulting us!’  
  
46But [Jesus] replied:  
  
 ‘Woe to you who are trained in the Law, for you pile loads upon men so high that they can’t be carried and which you wouldn’t touch with even a finger!  
  
 47‘Yes, woe to you! For you build tombs for the Prophets that were murdered by your fathers! 48And in so doing, you’re testifying against yourselves, since you’re approving of the very same things that your fathers did when they murdered those Prophets… Those whose tombs you’re now building.  
  
 49‘It was concerning such things that the Wisdom of God said this:  
  
 ‘I’m sending Apostles and Prophets to you  
 Whom you’ll persecute and you’ll kill.’  
  
 50‘And this is why the blood of all of the Prophets  
 That’s been spilled since this system was founded  
 Will be laid upon this people…  
  
 51‘From the blood of Abel to that of ZechariAh,  
 Who [was murdered] between the [Temple] and Altar…  
 It’ll all be laid upon this people!  
  
 52‘So, woe to you who are trained in the Law,  
 For although you accept the key to [great] knowledge,  
 You fail to come through [the door],  
 While blocking the way for everyone else trying to enter!’  
  
53So after he said these things, he got up and walked out.  
  
For the Scribes and Pharisees were just trying to pin him down... Constantly asking him questions about things 54as they were lying in wait, trying to trap him in anything that he might say.